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AUTHORITY
1987 The Year of The Reader
FORGE, YOU COWARD! SHOW YOUR FACE!
I WANT MY POWERS BACK--
--NOW!
SILVESTRI + GREEN

CHRIS CLAREMONT	MARK SILVESTRI	DAN GREEN	GLYNIS OLIVER	TOM ORZECHOWSKI	ANN NOCENTI	JIM SHOOTER
WRITER	PENCILER	FINISHER	COLORIST	LETTERER	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

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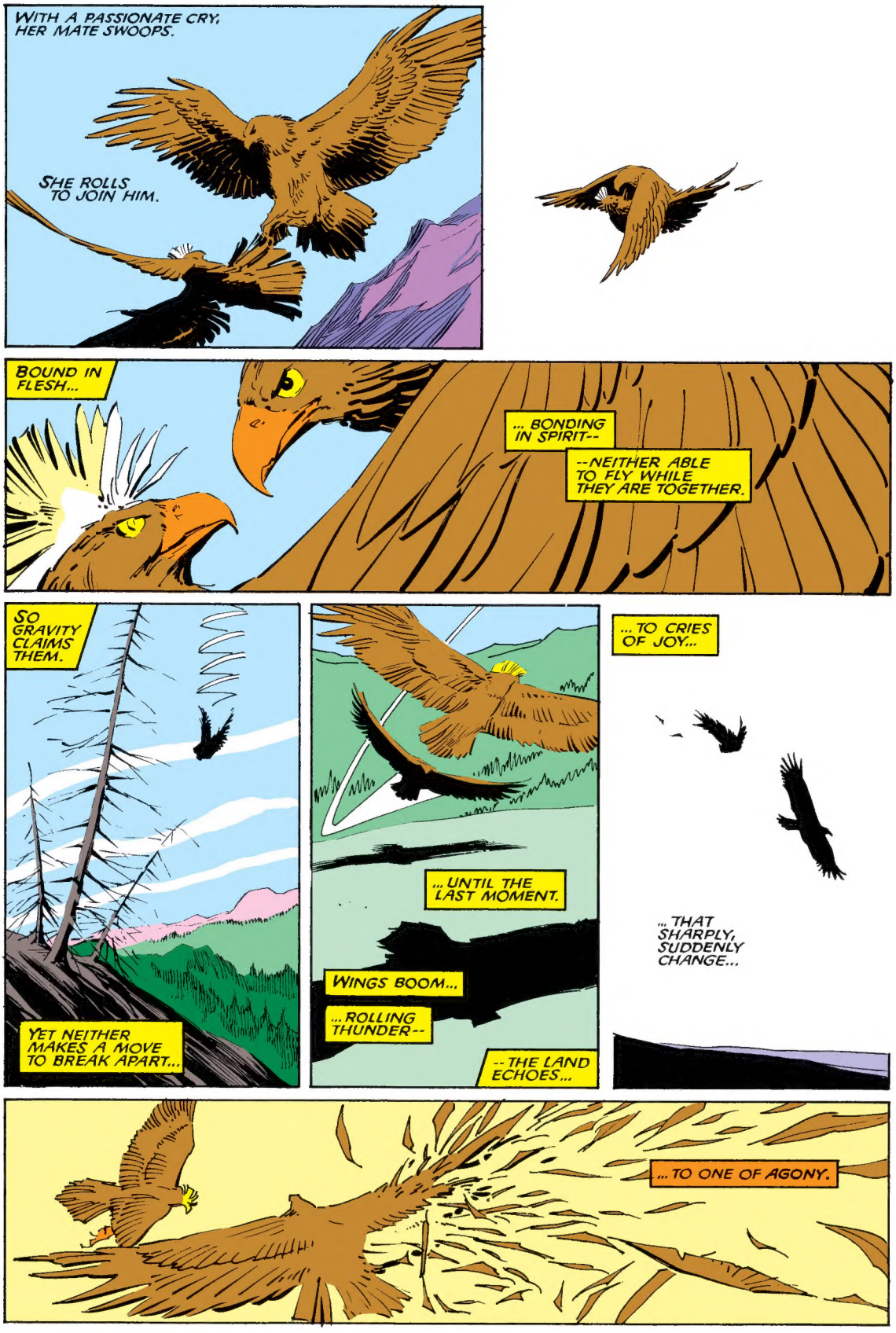
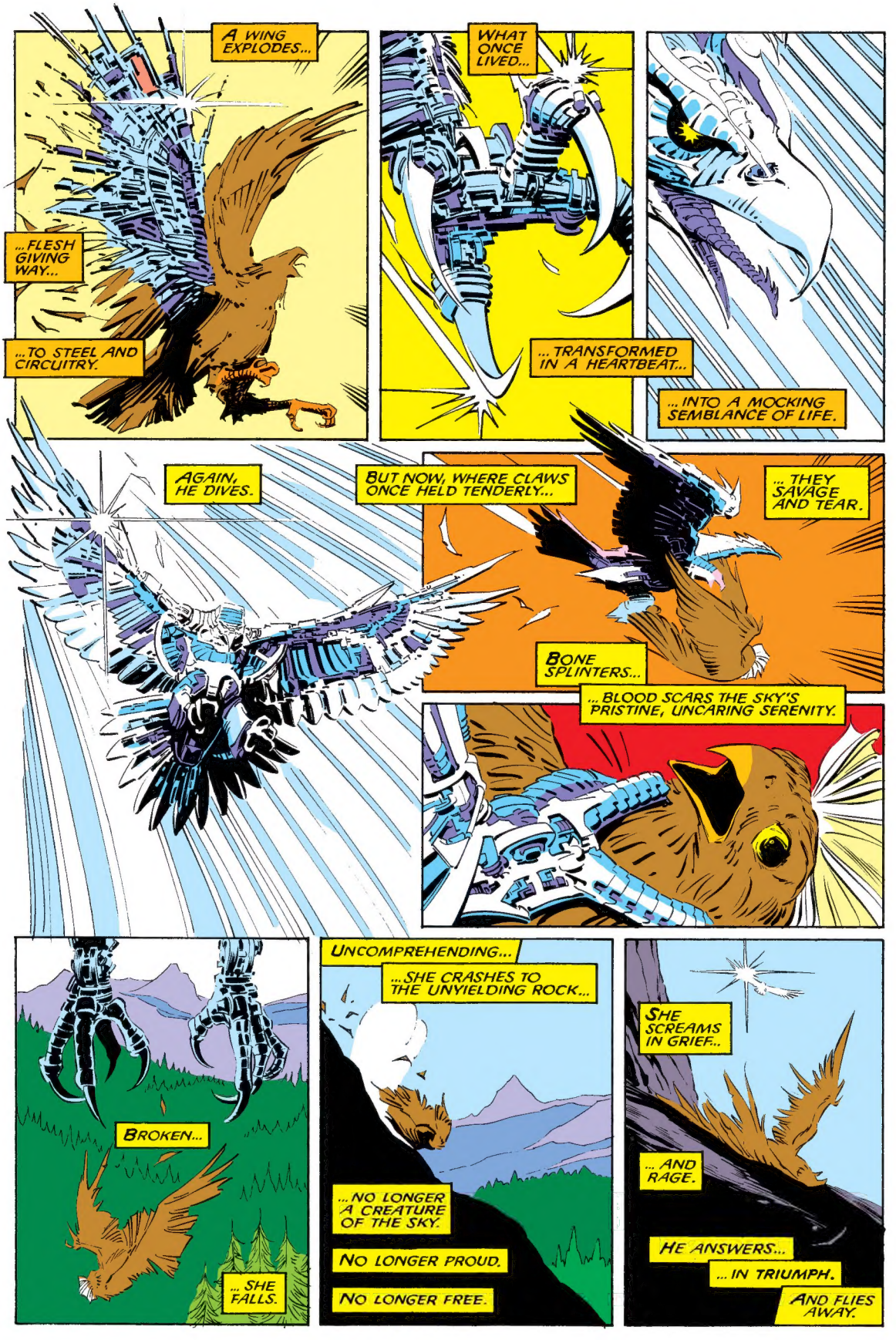
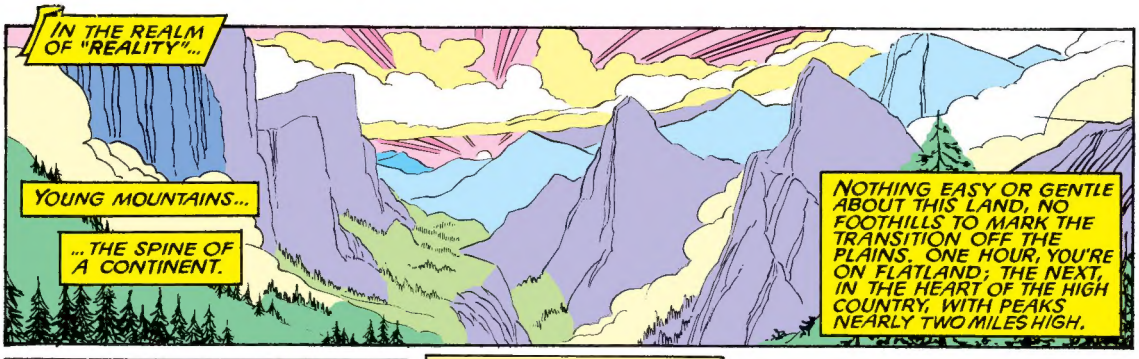
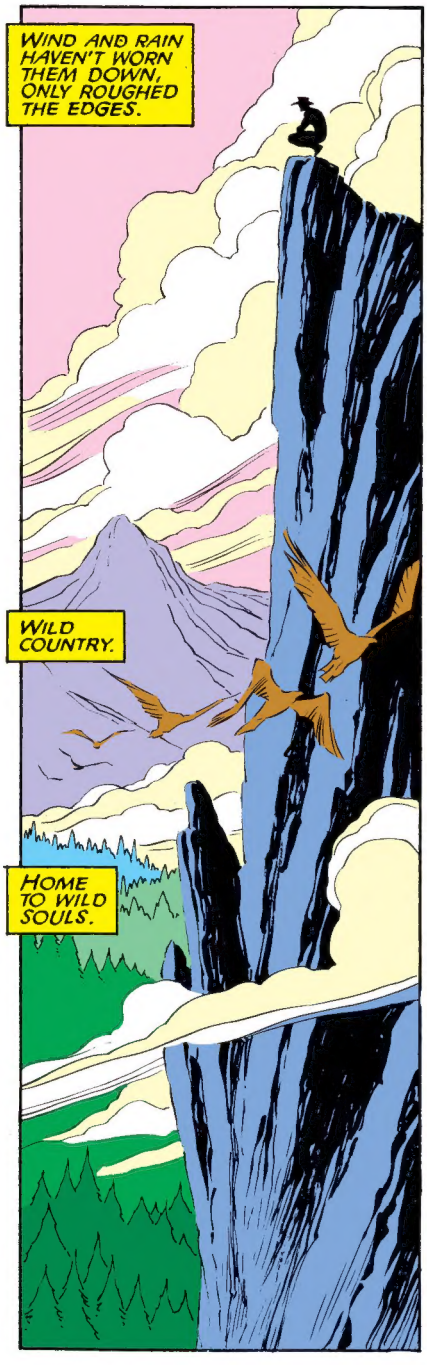
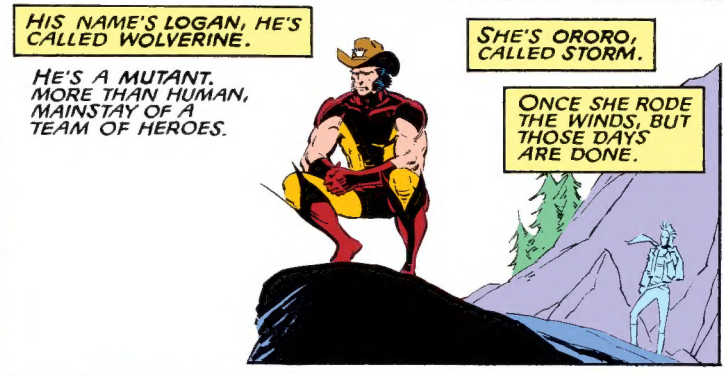
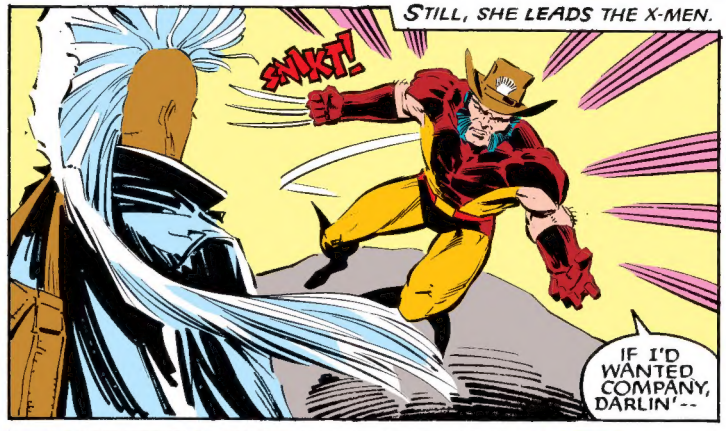

WITH A PASSIONATE CRY, HER MATE SWOOPS.
SHE ROLLS TO JOIN HIM.
BOUND IN FLESH...
... BONDING IN SPIRIT--
--NEITHER ABLE TO FLY WHILE THEY ARE TOGETHER.
SO GRAVITY CLAIMS THEM.
YET NEITHER MAKES A MOVE TO BREAK APART...
... UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT.
WINGS BOOM...
... ROLLING THUNDER--
--THE LAND ECHOES...
... TO CRIES OF JOY...
... THAT SHARPLY, SUDDENLY CHANGE...
... TO ONE OF AGONY.


A WING EXPLODES...
...FLESH GIVING WAY...
...TO STEEL AND CIRCUITRY.
WHAT ONCE LIVED...
... TRANSFORMED IN A HEARTBEAT...
... INTO A MOCKING SEMBLANCE OF LIFE.
AGAIN, HE DIVES.
BUT NOW, WHERE CLAWS ONCE HELD TENDERLY...
... THEY SAVAGE AND TEAR.
BONE SPLINTERS...
... BLOOD SCARS THE SKY'S PRISTINE, UNCARING SERENITY.
BROKEN...
... SHE FALLS.
UNCOMPREHENDING...
...SHE CRASHES TO THE UNYIELDING ROCK...
...NO LONGER A CREATURE OF THE SKY.
NO LONGER PROUD.
NO LONGER FREE.
SHE SCREAMS IN GRIEF...
... AND RAGE.
HE ANSWERS...
... IN TRIUMPH.
AND FLIES AWAY.


IN THE REALM OF "REALITY"...
YOUNG MOUNTAINS...
...THE SPINE OF A CONTINENT.
NOTHING EASY OR GENTLE ABOUT THIS LAND, NO FOOTHILLS TO MARK THE TRANSITION OFF THE PLAINS. ONE HOUR, YOU'RE ON FLATLAND; THE NEXT, IN THE HEART OF THE HIGH COUNTRY, WITH PEAKS NEARLY TWO MILES HIGH.

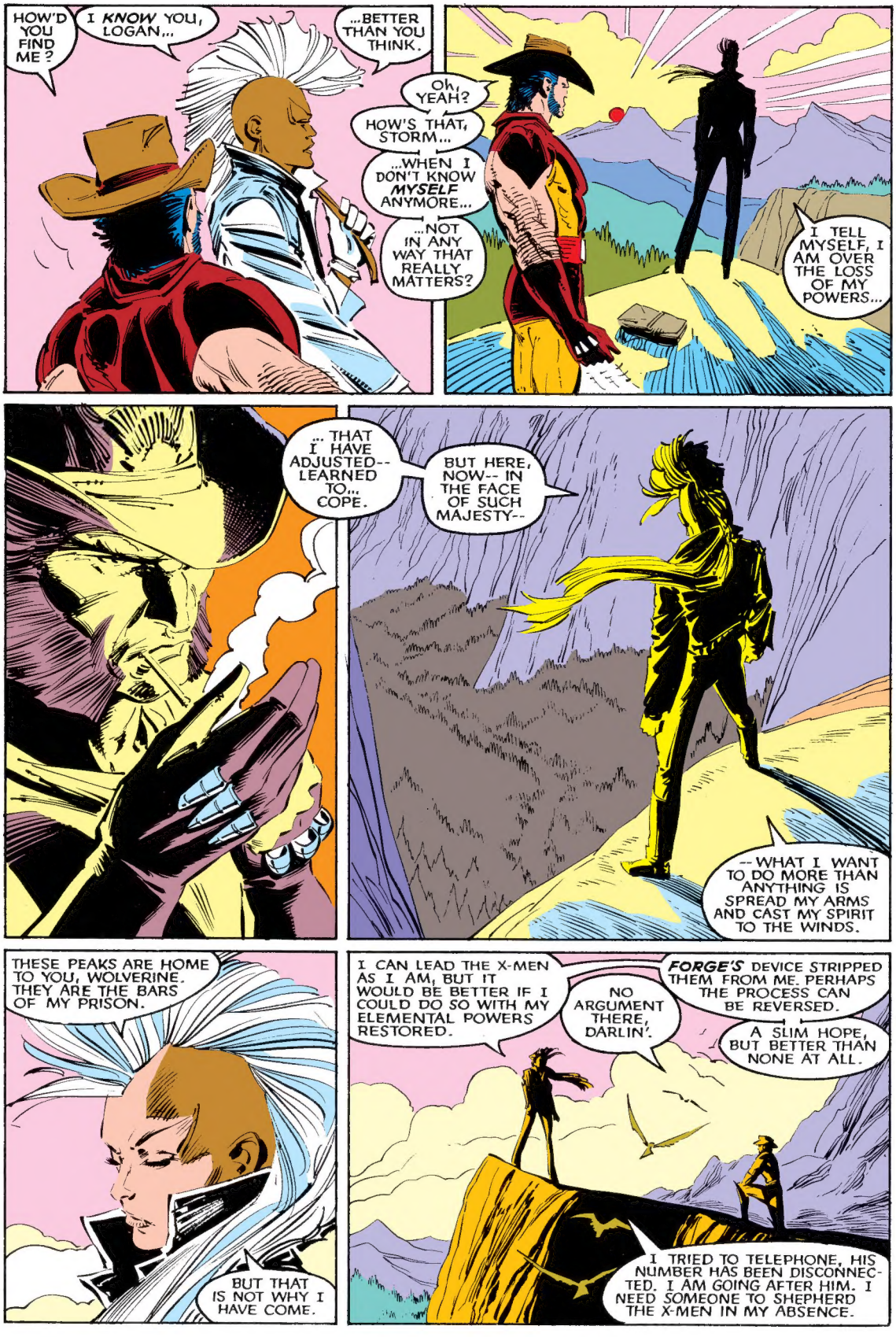

WIND AND RAIN HAVEN'T WORN THEM DOWN, ONLY ROUGHED THE EDGES.
WILD COUNTRY.
HOME TO WILD SOULS.

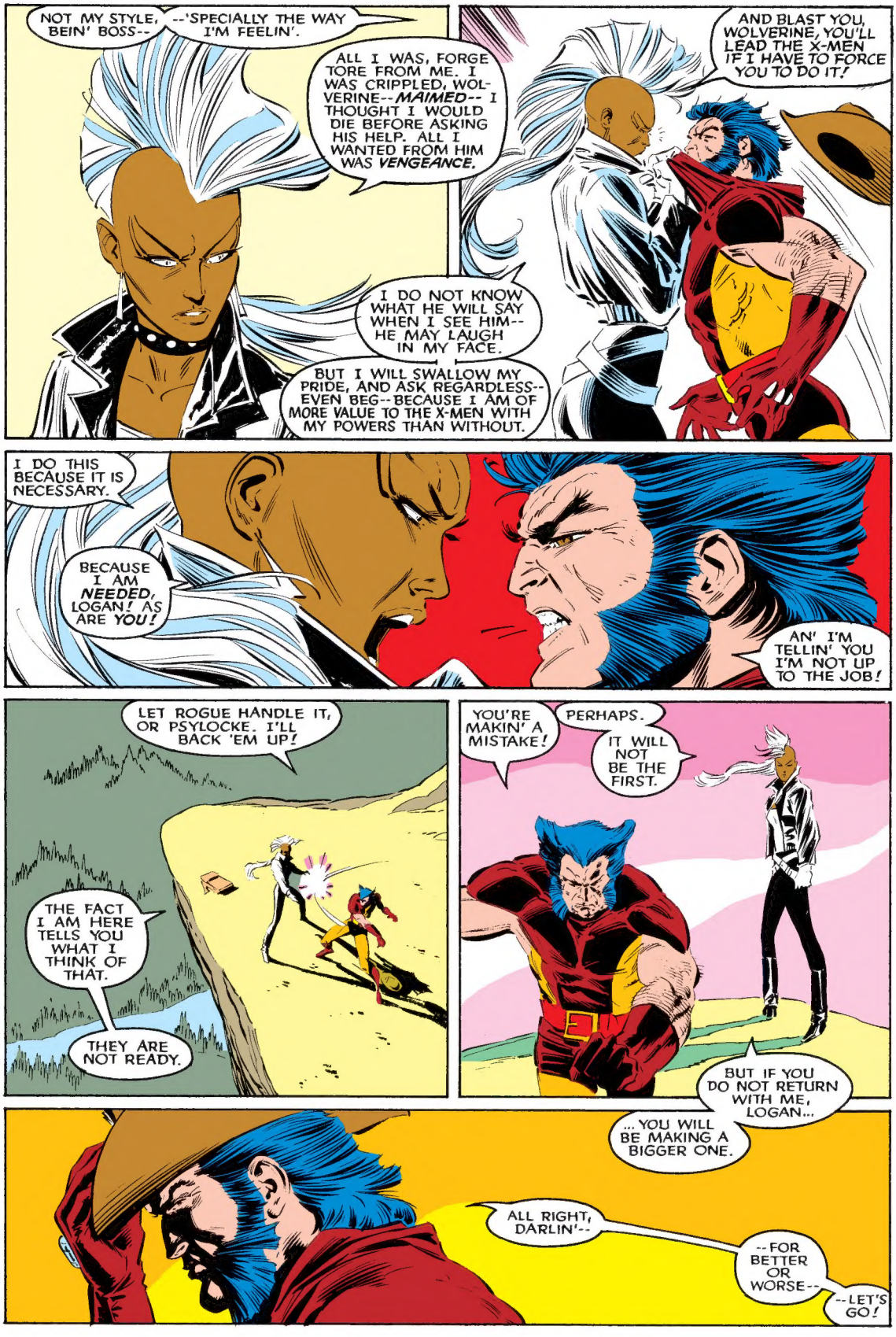

HIS NAME'S LOGAN, HE'S CALLED WOLVERINE.
HE'S A MUTANT. MORE THAN HUMAN, MAINSTAY OF A TEAM OF HEROES.
SHE'S ORORO, CALLED STORM.
ONCE SHE RODE THE WINDS, BUT THOSE DAYS ARE DONE.

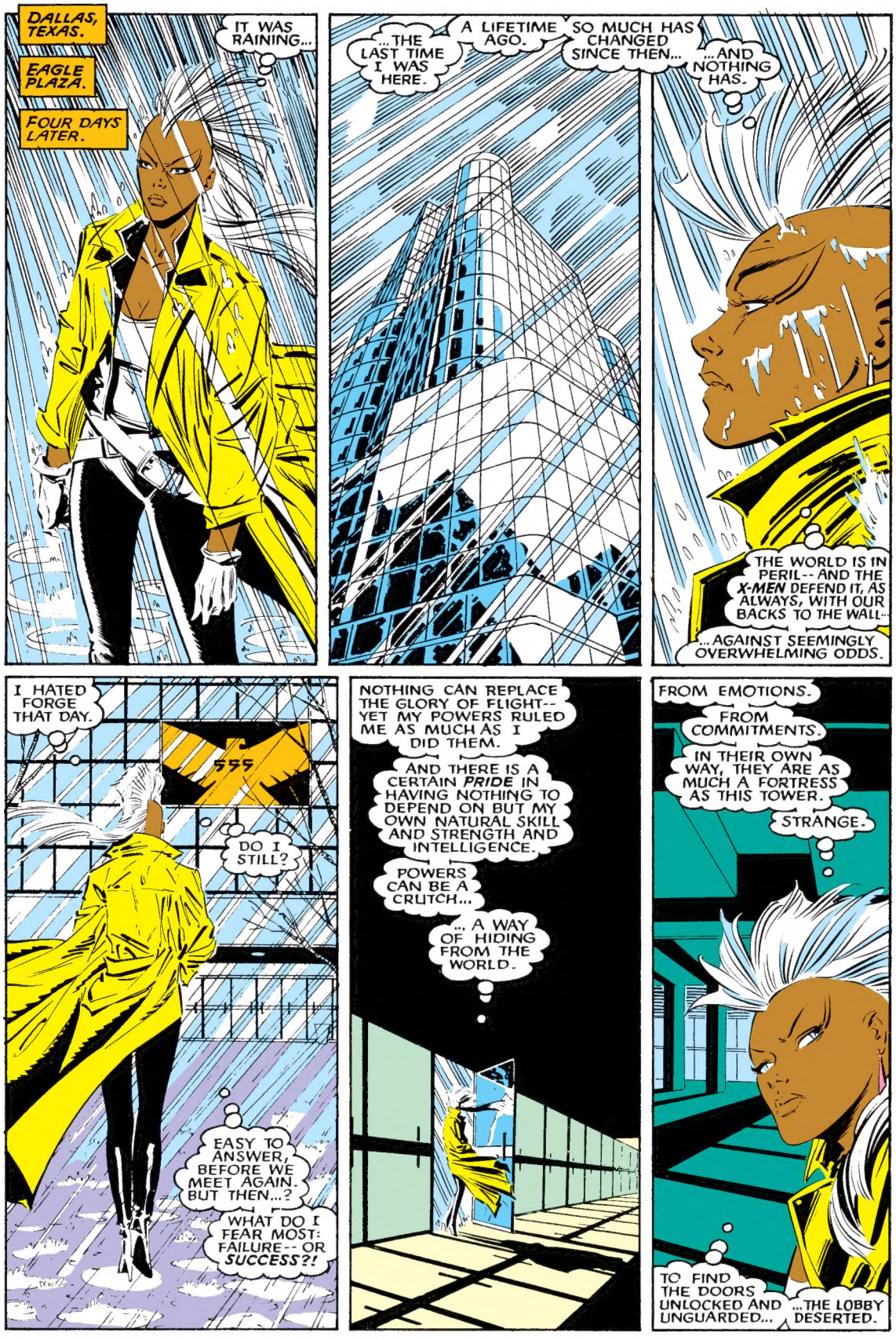

STILL, SHE LEADS THE X-MEN.
SNIKT!
IF I'D WANTED COMPANY, DARLIN'--

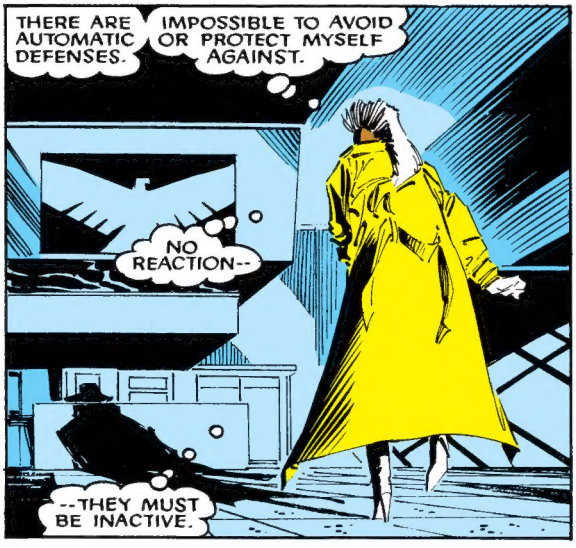
--I'D HAVE LEFT WORD WHERE I WAS!
IF I COULD AFFORD TO LEAVE YOU BE, MY FRIEND...
SKLASSH!

... I WOULD NOT BE HERE.


HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
I KNOW YOU, LOGAN...
...BETTER THAN YOU THINK.
OH, YEAH?
HOW'S THAT, STORM...
...WHEN I DON'T KNOW MYSELF ANYMORE...
...NOT IN ANY WAY THAT REALLY MATTERS?
I TELL MYSELF, I AM OVER THE LOSS OF MY POWERS...
... THAT I HAVE ADJUSTED-- LEARNED TO... COPE.
BUT HERE, NOW-- IN THE FACE OF SUCH MAJESTY--
--WHAT I WANT TO DO MORE THAN ANYTHING IS SPREAD MY ARMS AND CAST MY SPIRIT TO THE WINDS.
THESE PEAKS ARE HOME TO YOU, WOLVERINE. THEY ARE THE BARS OF MY PRISON.
BUT THAT IS NOT WHY I HAVE COME.
I CAN LEAD THE X-MEN AS I AM, BUT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I COULD DO SO WITH MY ELEMENTAL POWERS RESTORED.
NO ARGUMENT THERE, DARLIN'.
FORGE'S DEVICE STRIPPED THEM FROM ME. PERHAPS THE PROCESS CAN BE REVERSED.
A SLIM HOPE, BUT BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL.
I TRIED TO TELEPHONE, HIS NUMBER HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED. I AM GOING AFTER HIM. I NEED SOMEONE TO SHEPHERD THE X-MEN IN MY ABSENCE.

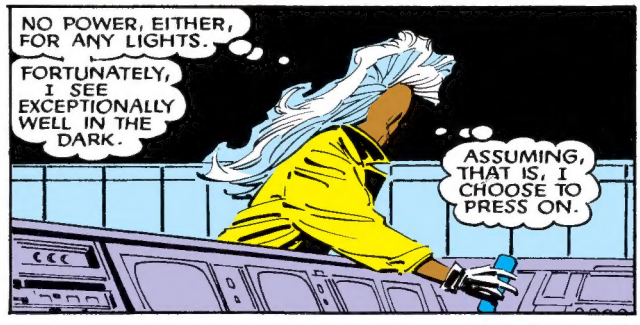

NOT MY STYLE, BEIN' BOSS--
--'SPECIALLY THE WAY I'M FEELIN'.
ALL I WAS, FORGE TORE FROM ME. I WAS CRIPPLED, WOLVERINE--MAIMED-- I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE BEFORE ASKING HIS HELP. ALL I WANTED FROM HIM WAS VENGEANCE.
AND BLAST YOU, WOLVERINE, YOU'LL LEAD THE X-MEN IF I HAVE TO FORCE YOU TO DO IT!
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE WILL SAY WHEN I SEE HIM-- HE MAY LAUGH IN MY FACE.
BUT I WILL SWALLOW MY PRIDE, AND ASK REGARDLESS-- EVEN BEG--BECAUSE I AM OF MORE VALUE TO THE X-MEN WITH MY POWERS THAN WITHOUT.
I DO THIS BECAUSE IT IS NECESSARY.
BECAUSE I AM NEEDED, LOGAN! AS ARE YOU!
AN' I'M TELLIN' YOU I'M NOT UP TO THE JOB!
LET ROGUE HANDLE IT, OR PSYLOCKE. I'LL BACK 'EM UP!
THE FACT I AM HERE TELLS YOU WHAT I THINK OF THAT.
THEY ARE NOT READY.
YOU'RE MAKIN' A MISTAKE!
PERHAPS.
IT WILL NOT BE THE FIRST.
BUT IF YOU DO NOT RETURN WITH ME, LOGAN...
...YOU WILL BE MAKING A BIGGER ONE.
ALL RIGHT, DARLIN'--
--FOR BETTER OR WORSE--
--LET'S GO!


DALLAS, TEXAS.
EAGLE PLAZA.
FOUR DAYS LATER.
IT WAS RAINING...
...THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.
A LIFETIME AGO.
SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN...
...AND NOTHING HAS.
THE WORLD IS IN PERIL-- AND THE X-MEN DEFEND IT, AS ALWAYS, WITH OUR BACKS TO THE WALL...
...AGAINST SEEMINGLY OVERWHELMING ODDS.
I HATED FORGE THAT DAY.
DO I STILL?
EASY TO ANSWER, BEFORE WE MEET AGAIN. BUT THEN...?
WHAT DO I FEAR MOST: FAILURE-- OR SUCCESS?!
NOTHING CAN REPLACE THE GLORY OF FLIGHT-- YET MY POWERS RULED ME AS MUCH AS I DID THEM.
AND THERE IS A CERTAIN PRIDE IN HAVING NOTHING TO DEPEND ON BUT MY OWN NATURAL SKILL AND STRENGTH AND INTELLIGENCE.
POWERS CAN BE A CRUTCH...
... A WAY OF HIDING FROM THE WORLD.
FROM EMOTIONS.
FROM COMMITMENTS.
IN THEIR OWN WAY, THEY ARE AS MUCH A FORTRESS AS THIS TOWER.
STRANGE.
TO FIND THE DOORS UNLOCKED AND UNGUARDED...
...THE LOBBY DESERTED.

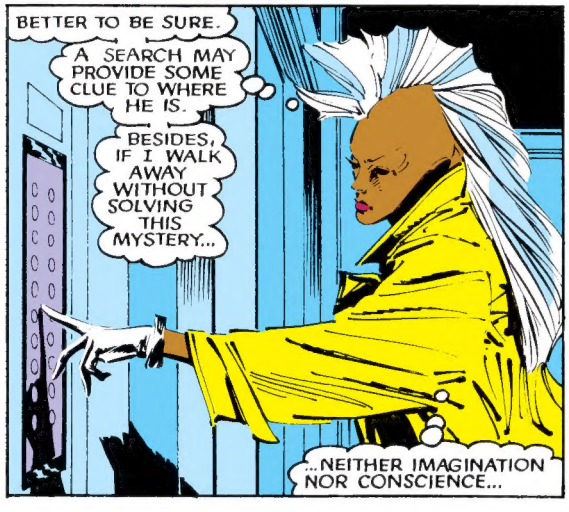

THERE ARE AUTOMATIC DEFENSES.
IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID OR PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST.
NO REACTION--
--THEY MUST BE INACTIVE.

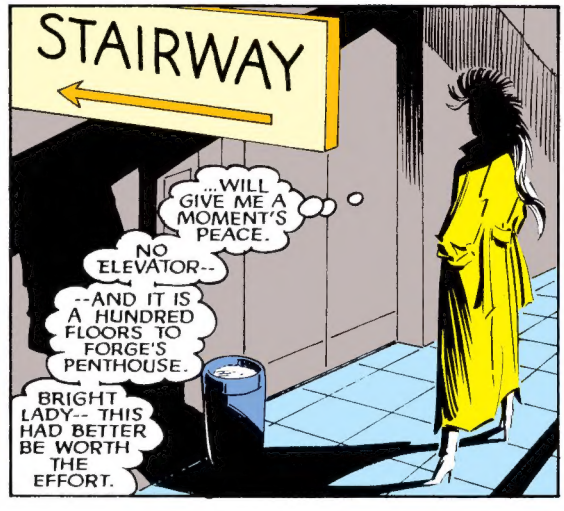
THE SECURITY CONSOLE-- COMPLETELY TURNED OFF--
--THICK WITH DUST.
NO ONE HAS BEEN HERE IN AGES.
WHAT IS THIS...?

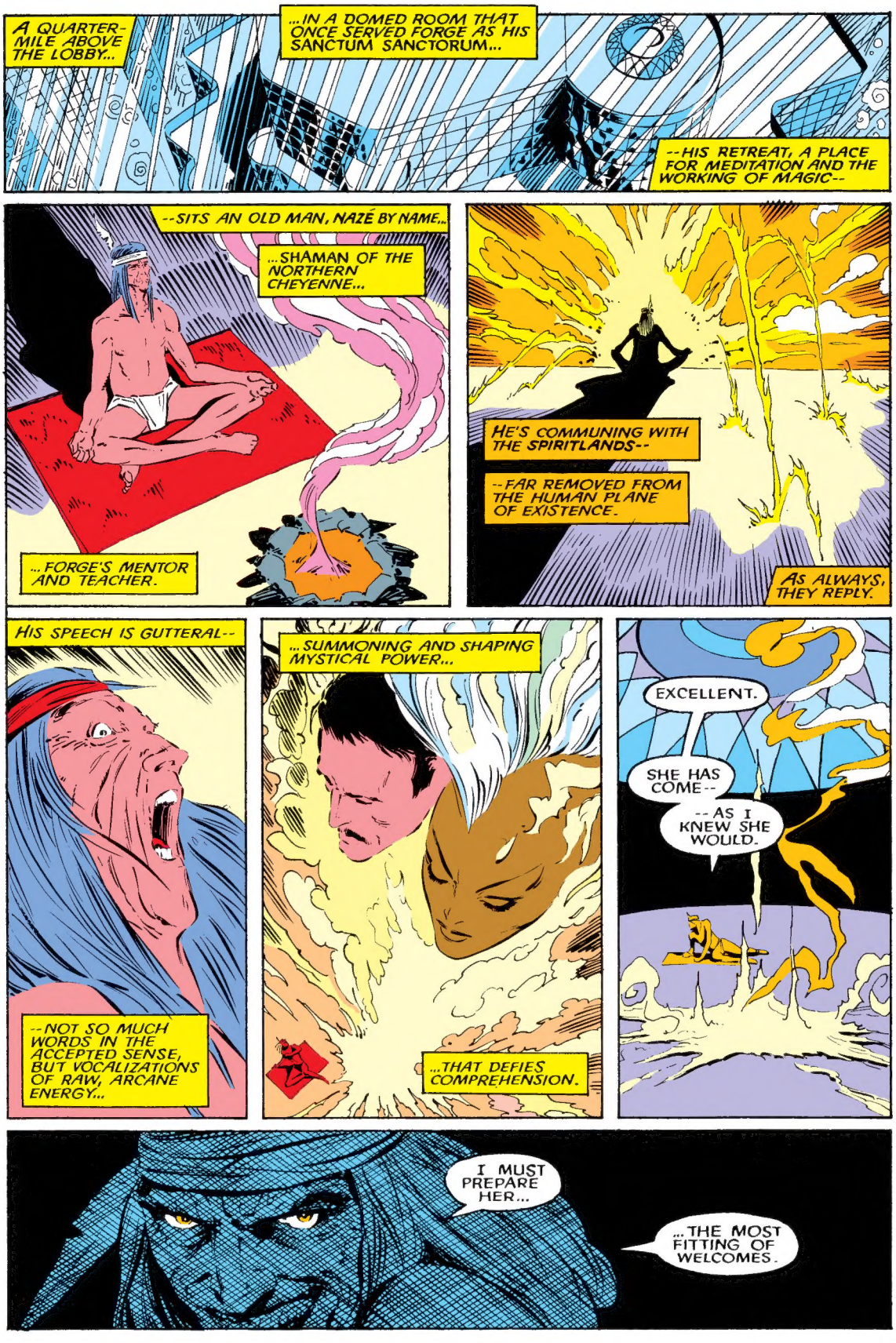
A NOTICE FROM THE CITY...
...OF CONDEMNATION?!?
FORGE, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?!
PHONE IS DEAD.
BUILDING CONDEMNATION

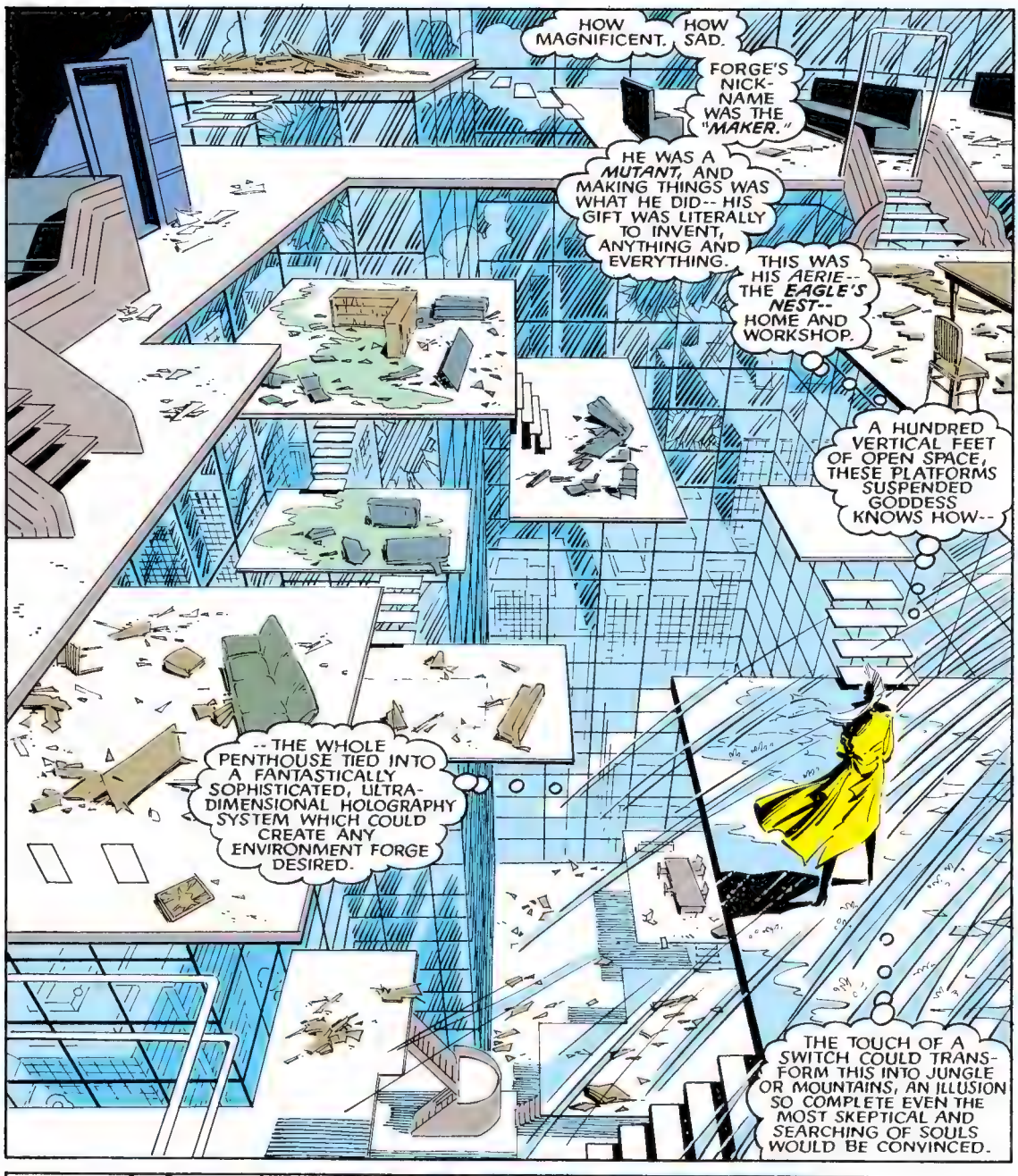

NO POWER, EITHER, FOR ANY LIGHTS.
FORTUNATELY, I SEE EXCEPTIONALLY WELL IN THE DARK.
ASSUMING, THAT IS, I CHOOSE TO PRESS ON.

THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT HIM TO BE HERE. QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IN FACT.
FORGE DESIGNED WEAPONS FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT-- IT WAS FOR THEM HE CONSTRUCTED THE INHIBITOR THAT TOOK AWAY MY MUTANT POWERS-- LOGICALLY, THEN, IF HE COULD NO LONGER WORK HERE, THEY WOULD MOVE HIM SOMEPLACE ELSE.

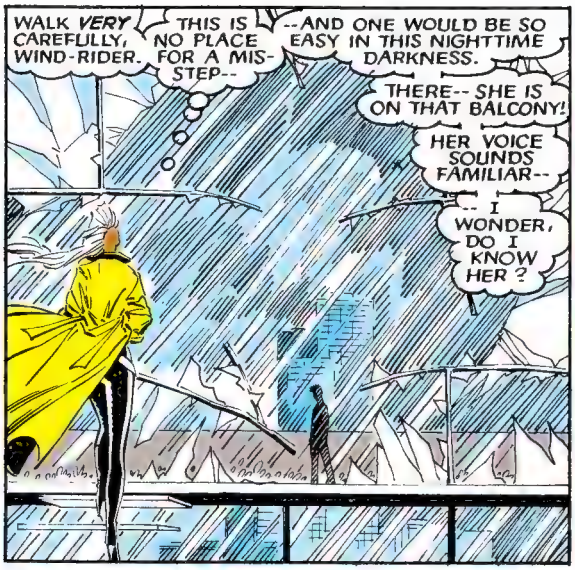

BETTER TO BE SURE.
A SEARCH MAY PROVIDE SOME CLUE TO WHERE HE IS.
BESIDES, IF I WALK AWAY WITHOUT SOLVING THIS MYSTERY...
...NEITHER IMAGINATION NOR CONSCIENCE...

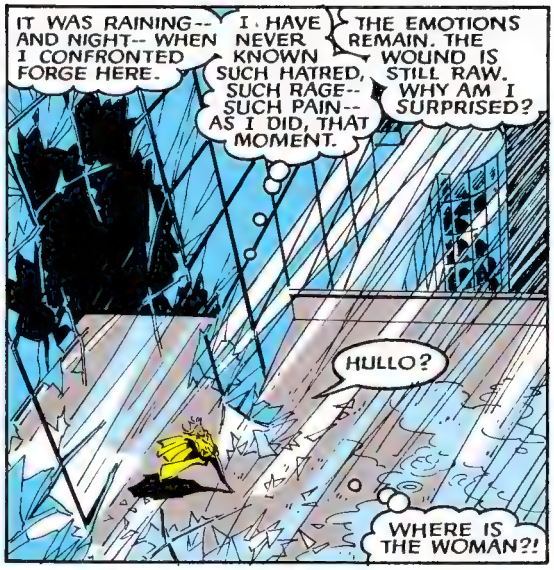

STAIRWAY
...WILL GIVE ME A MOMENT'S PEACE.
NO ELEVATOR--
--AND IT IS A HUNDRED FLOORS TO FORGE'S PENTHOUSE.
BRIGHT LADY-- THIS HAD BETTER BE WORTH THE EFFORT.

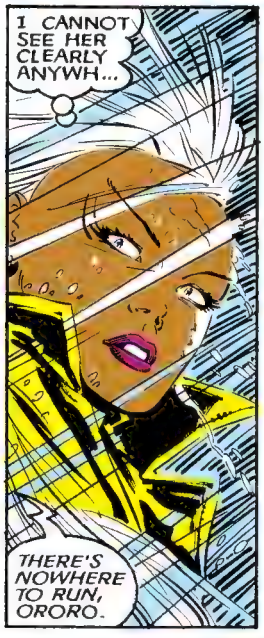

A QUARTER-MILE ABOVE THE LOBBY...
...IN A DOMED ROOM THAT ONCE SERVED FORGE AS HIS SANCTUM SANCTORUM...
--HIS RETREAT, A PLACE FOR MEDITATION AND THE WORKING OF MAGIC--
--SITS AN OLD MAN, NAZÉ BY NAME...
...SHAMAN OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE...
... FORGE'S MENTOR AND TEACHER.
HE'S COMMUNING WITH THE SPIRITLANDS--
--FAR REMOVED FROM THE HUMAN PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
AS ALWAYS, THEY REPLY.
HIS SPEECH IS GUTTERAL--
--NOT SO MUCH WORDS IN THE ACCEPTED SENSE, BUT VOCALIZATIONS OF RAW, ARCANE ENERGY...
... SUMMONING AND SHAPING MYSTICAL POWER...
...THAT DEFIES COMPREHENSION.
EXCELLENT.
SHE HAS COME--
--AS I KNEW SHE WOULD.
I MUST PREPARE HER...
...THE MOST FITTING OF WELCOMES.

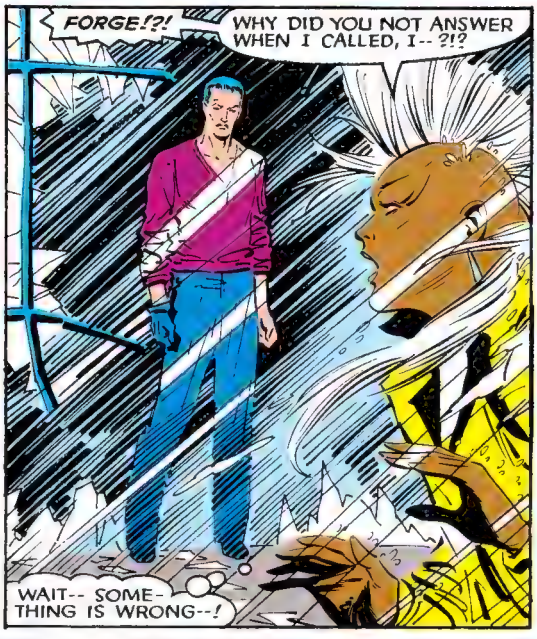

HOW MAGNIFICENT.
HOW SAD.
FORGE'S NICK-NAME WAS THE "MAKER."
HE WAS A MUTANT, AND MAKING THINGS WAS WHAT HE DID-- HIS GIFT WAS LITERALLY TO INVENT, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.
THIS WAS HIS AERIE-- THE EAGLE'S NEST-- HOME AND WORKSHOP.
A HUNDRED VERTICAL FEET OF OPEN SPACE, THESE PLATFORMS SUSPENDED GODDESS KNOWS HOW--
--THE WHOLE PENTHOUSE TIED INTO A FANTASTICALLY SOPHISTICATED, ULTRA-DIMENSIONAL HOLOGRAPHY SYSTEM WHICH COULD CREATE ANY ENVIRONMENT FORGE DESIRED.
THE TOUCH OF A SWITCH COULD TRANS-FORM THIS INTO JUNGLE OR MOUNTAINS, AN ILLUSION SO COMPLETE EVEN THE MOST SKEPTICAL AND SEARCHING OF SOULS WOULD BE CONVINCED.

EVEN THOSE WHO KNEW IT WAS FALSE WOULD BE DECEIVED.
BY THE MACHINES, AS BY THE MAN.
AND NOW, IT STANDS IN RUINS.
WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, MAKER, WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED YOUR ROOST?
HELP ME!
THAT SOUND--
--A VOICE-- A WOMAN--
--IS SOMEONE ELSE HERE?!

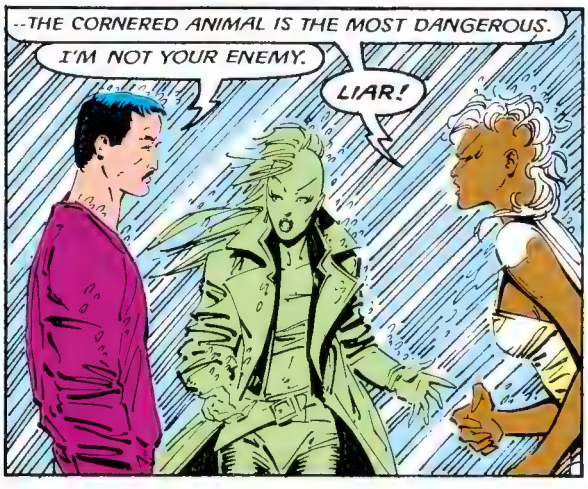

WALK VERY CAREFULLY, WIND-RIDER.
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A MIS-STEP--
--AND ONE WOULD BE SO EASY IN THIS NIGHTTIME DARKNESS.
THERE-- SHE IS ON THAT BALCONY!
HER VOICE SOUNDS FAMILIAR--
-- I WONDER, DO I KNOW HER ?

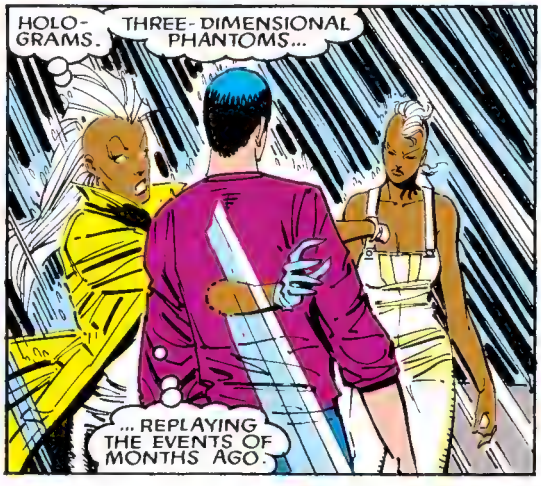

IT WAS RAINING-- AND NIGHT-- WHEN I CONFRONTED FORGE HERE.
I HAVE NEVER KNOWN SUCH HATRED, SUCH RAGE-- SUCH PAIN-- AS I DID, THAT MOMENT.
THE EMOTIONS REMAIN. THE WOUND IS STILL RAW. WHY AM I SURPRISED?
HULLO?
WHERE IS THE WOMAN?!

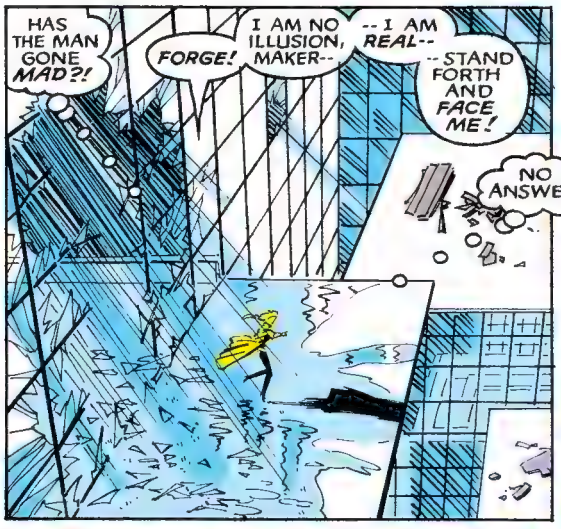

I CANNOT SEE HER CLEARLY ANYWH...
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, ORORO.

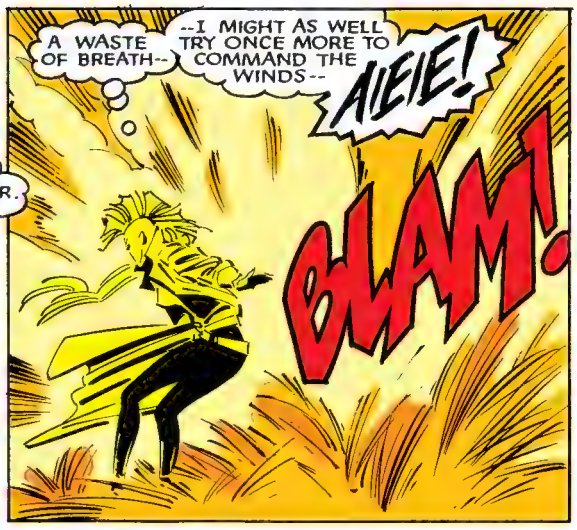

FORGE!?!
WHY DID YOU NOT ANSWER WHEN I CALLED, I-- ?!?
WAIT-- SOME-THING IS WRONG--!

HAVE A CARE, MAKER--
MERCIFUL LADY !


--THE CORNERED ANIMAL IS THE MOST DANGEROUS.
I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY.
LIAR!

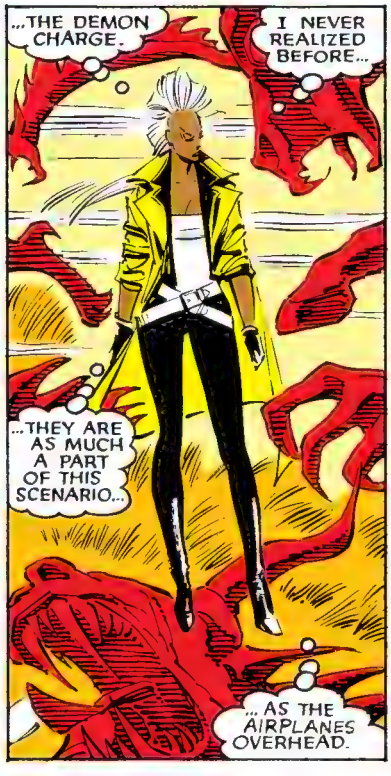

HOLO-GRAMS.
THREE-DIMENSIONAL PHANTOMS...
... REPLAYING THE EVENTS OF MONTHS AGO.


HAS THE MAN GONE MAD?!
FORGE!
I AM NO ILLUSION, MAKER--
--I AM REAL--
--STAND FORTH AND FACE ME!
NO ANSWER.

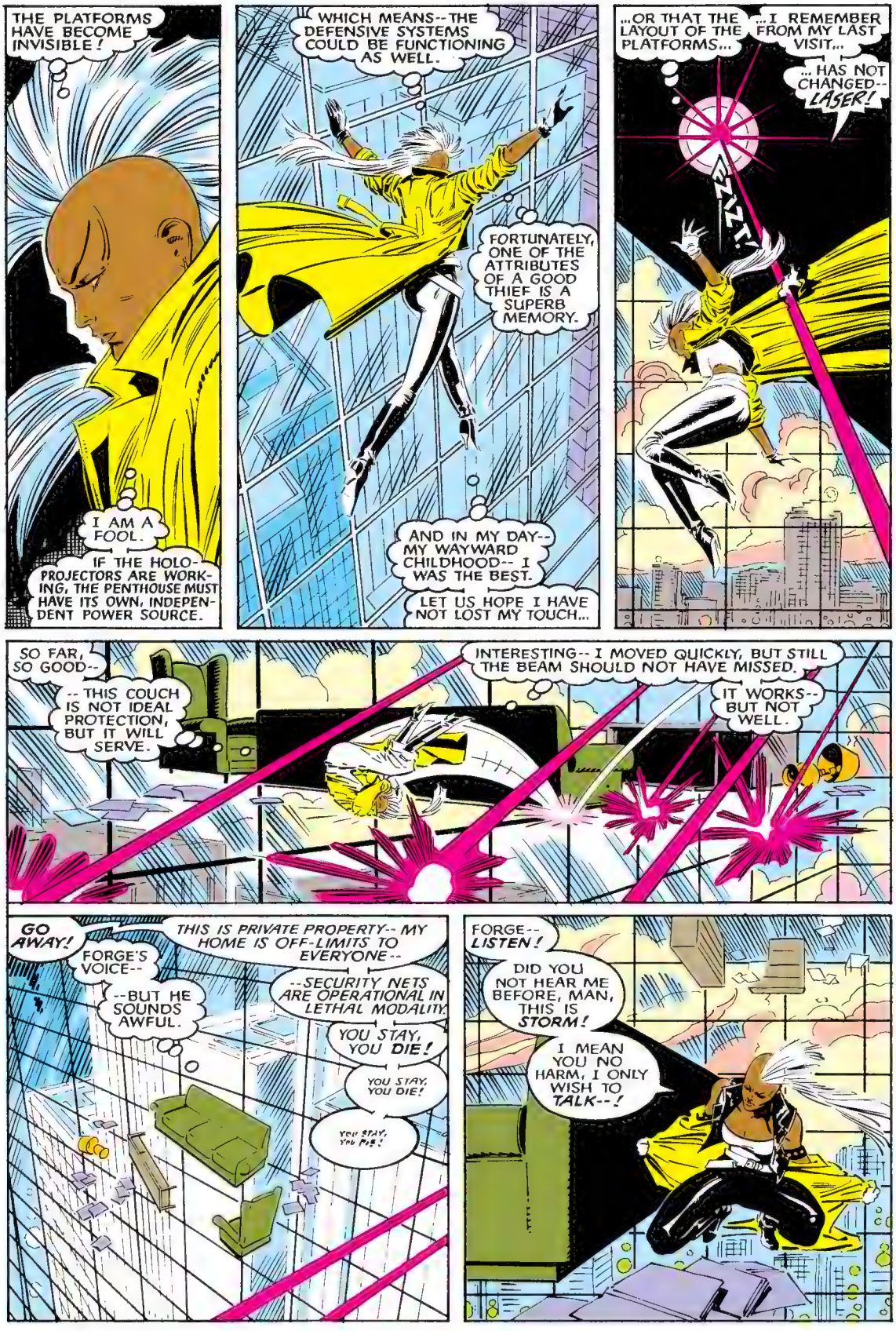

A WASTE OF BREATH--
--I MIGHT AS WELL TRY ONCE MORE TO COMMAND THE WINDS--
AIEIE!
BLAM!

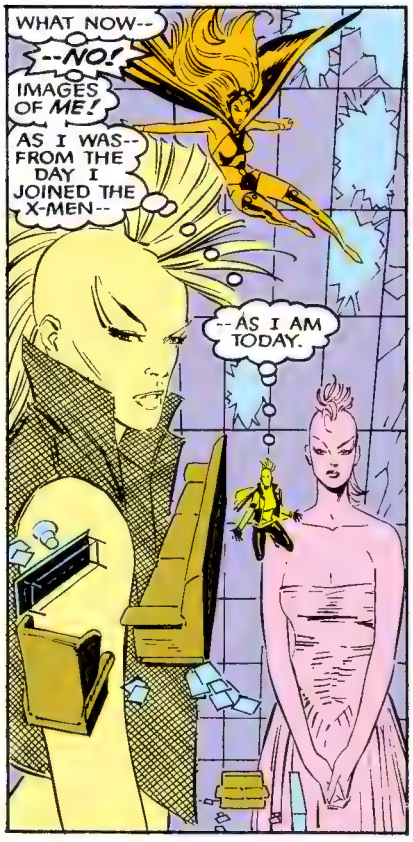
AIR-CRAFT!
MORE PHANTOMS, BOMBING A PHANTOM JUNGLE--
--AND YET, SIGHT, SOUND, EVEN SMELL, CONSPIRE TO MAKE IT SEEM SO LIFELIKE.

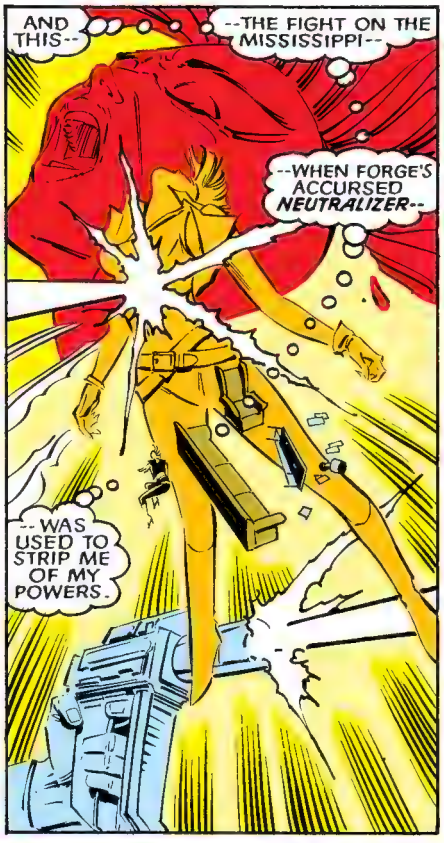
AND THERE I AM...
...AS I WAS THEN...
...CONFUSED... TERRIFIED...
...OF THE CONFLAGRATION I HAD UNWITTINGLY CONJURED WITH FORGE'S CONTROL MODULE.
NEXT SHOULD COME...


...THE DEMON CHARGE.
I NEVER REALIZED BEFORE...
...THEY ARE AS MUCH A PART OF THIS SCENARIO...
...AS THE AIRPLANES OVERHEAD.

BUT-- IF THIS IS SOME INCIDENT FROM FORGE'S PAST...
...HOW CAN THOSE TWO ELEMENTS COEXIST--
--SPIRIT CREATURES IN A MODERN WAR--
--THE FLOOR, WHERE HAS IT GONE?!


THE PLATFORMS HAVE BECOME INVISIBLE!
I AM A FOOL.
IF THE HOLO-PROJECTORS ARE WORKING, THE PENTHOUSE MUST HAVE ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT POWER SOURCE.
WHICH MEANS--THE DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS COULD BE FUNCTIONING AS WELL.
FORTUNATELY, ONE OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD THIEF IS A SUPERB MEMORY.
AND IN MY DAY--MY WAYWARD CHILDHOOD-- I WAS THE BEST.
LET US HOPE I HAVE NOT LOST MY TOUCH...
...OR THAT THE LAYOUT OF THE PLATFORMS...
...I REMEMBER FROM MY LAST VISIT...
... HAS NOT CHANGED--LASER!
RZZT!
SO FAR, SO GOOD--
-- THIS COUCH IS NOT IDEAL PROTECTION, BUT IT WILL SERVE.
INTERESTING-- I MOVED QUICKLY, BUT STILL THE BEAM SHOULD NOT HAVE MISSED.
IT WORKS--BUT NOT WELL.
GO AWAY!
FORGE'S VOICE--
--BUT HE SOUNDS AWFUL.
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY-- MY HOME IS OFF-LIMITS TO EVERYONE--
--SECURITY NETS ARE OPERATIONAL IN LETHAL MODALITY.
YOU STAY, YOU DIE!
YOU STAY, YOU DIE!
YOU STAY, YOU DIE!
FORGE--LISTEN!
DID YOU NOT HEAR ME BEFORE, MAN, THIS IS STORM!
I MEAN YOU NO HARM, I ONLY WISH TO TALK--!


WHAT NOW--
--NO!
IMAGES OF ME!
AS I WAS--FROM THE DAY I JOINED THE X-MEN--
--AS I AM TODAY.

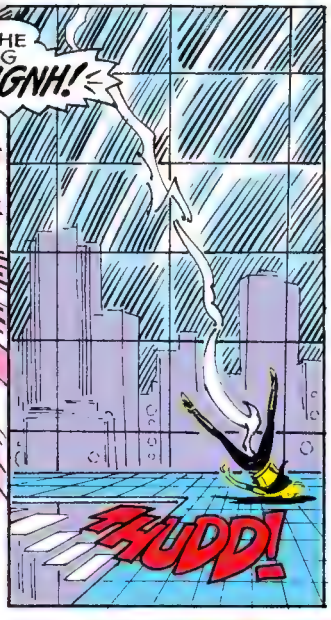

AND THIS--
--THE FIGHT ON THE MISSISSIPPI--
--WHEN FORGE'S ACCURSED NEUTRALIZER--
--WAS USED TO STRIP ME OF MY POWERS.

NO MORE THE GODDESS, HE TOLD ME.
THE WIND-RIDER HAD BECOME...
...JUST PLAIN FOLKS.

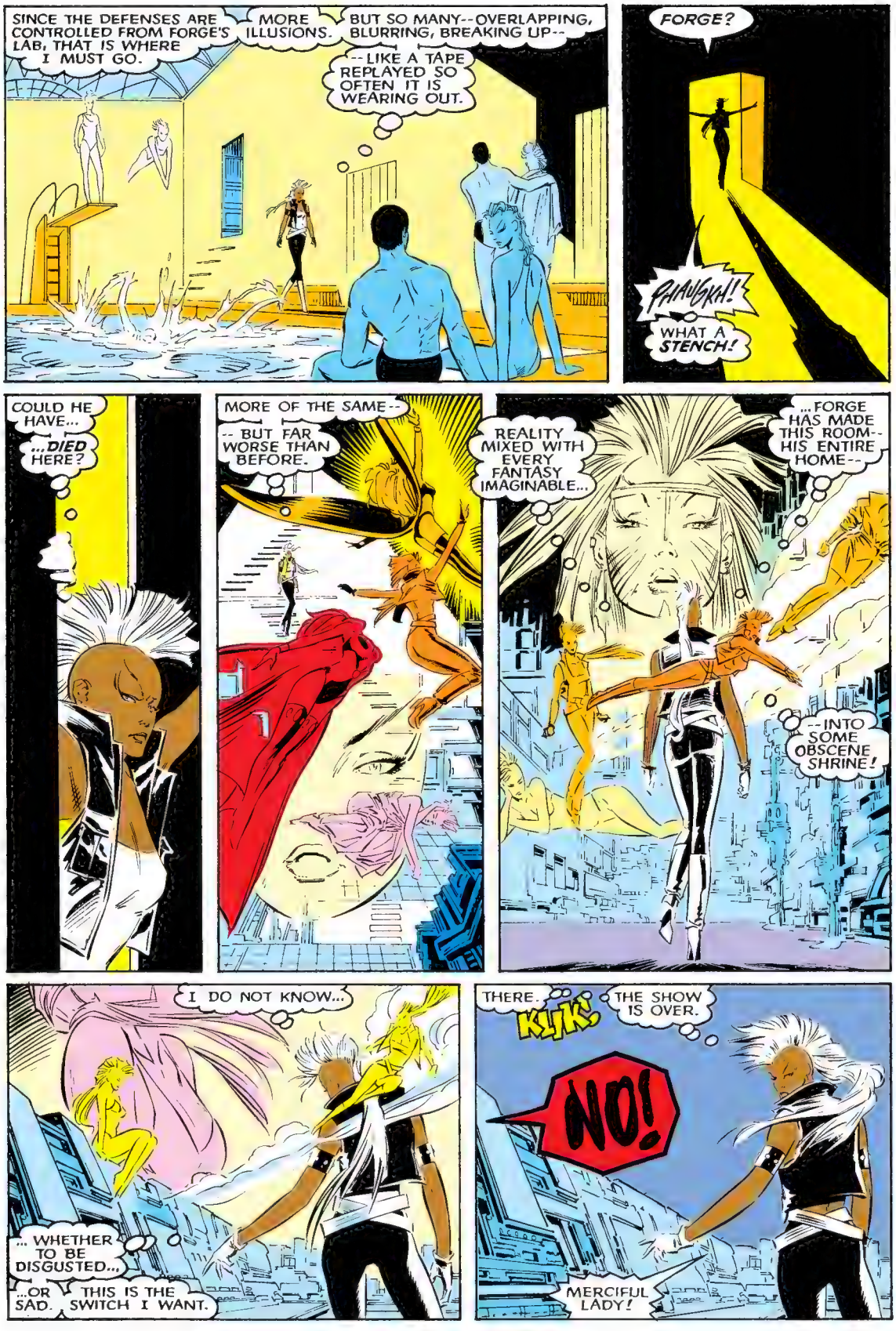
WHY, FORGE?
WHY?!
WHY?!!
DOES IT GIVE YOU PLEASURE, RERUNNING MY DESTRUCTION?!
WHAT AM I TO YOU, THAT YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH MY IMAGE?!!
SHOULD I DO AS I AM TOLD--AND LEAVE THIS MADMAN TO HIS OBSESSION?

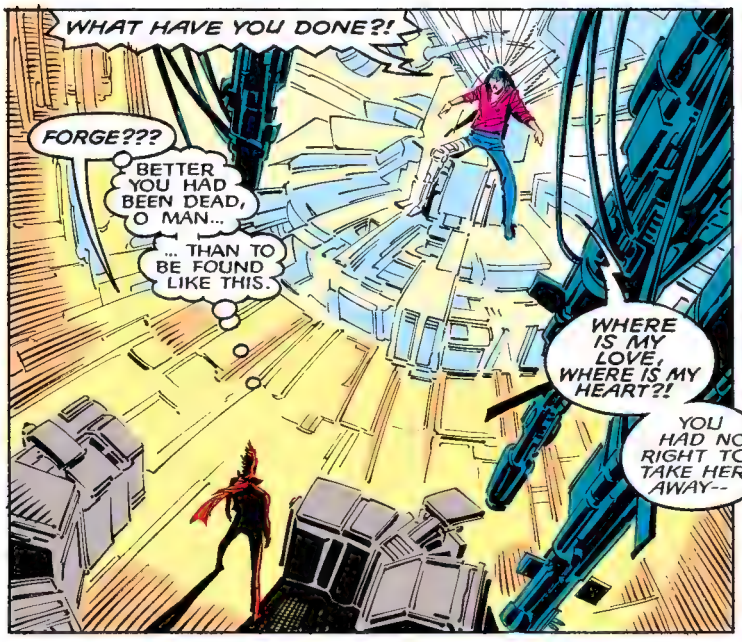
I WISH I COULD.
BUT SO LONG AS THE SECURITY SYSTEM IS ACTIVE, I AM TRAPPED HERE.
MY BEST CHANCE IS TO STAY CLOSE TO THAT SHATTERED WALL...
...HOPE THE STORM OUTSIDE WILL MASK ME...

FLAPT!


...FROM THE TRACKING SENS
UNGNH!
THUDD!

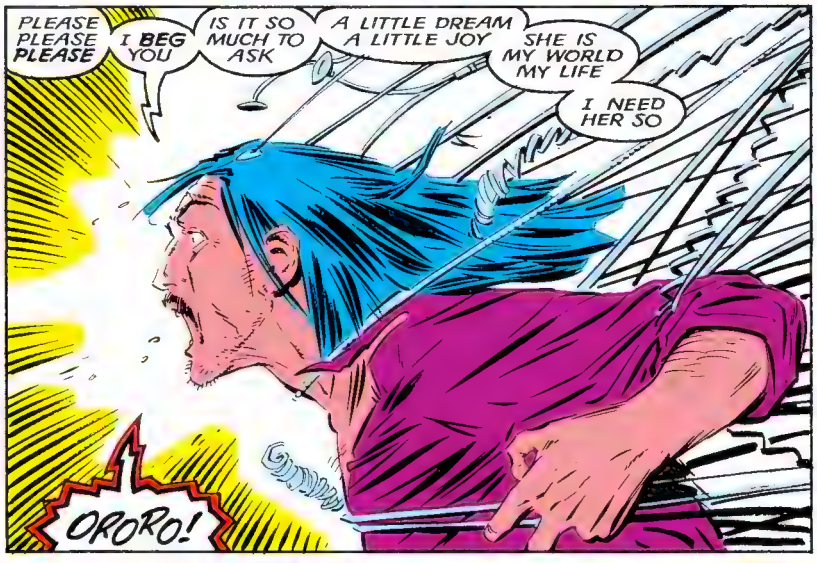
SO MUCH FOR THAT BRILLIANT IDEA.
STUN BOLT-- NUMBED MY ARM--
--LANDING ON THE SAME SHOULDER HAS NOT HELPED.
COULD BE WORSE.
THERE IS THE KITCHEN.
THE BLASTERS CANNOT REACH ME INSIDE.
I HEAR MORE VOICES.
THE COLOR--IS IT NOT LOVELY? AND I HAVE NEVER FELT SUCH WONDERFUL FABRIC. I COULD NOT RESIST, I THOUGHT IT... I...
FORGE, WHY ARE YOU STARING?
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
I... DO NOT KNOW. YOU MAKE ME NERVOUS.
WHY DID I SO CRAVE HIS APPROVAL?
HOW COULD HE BECOME SO IMPORTANT TO ME SO QUICKLY??
YOU'RE MEANT TO SIP IT.
TASTE GOOD?
OH.
VERY.
YOU'RE BLUSHING.
YOU ARE STARING.
SO ARE YOU.
I BLAMED THE CHAMPAGNE FOR MY FEELING GIDDY. BUT IT WAS MORE THAN THAT.
HAS THIS PLACE NOT BEEN CLEANED SINCE? IT IS A PIGSTY.
I'M PROUD OF MY HERITAGE.
BUT WHAT I WAS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHO I AM OR THE LIFE I LEAD.
"THE PATH OF DESTINY...
"... DOESN'T ALWAYS LEAD WHERE WE WANT."
THIS COULD BE THE BOTTLE WE DRANK FROM THAT EVENING.
THE WINE IS FLAT...
...LONG AGO TURNED TO VINEGAR. LIKE US.

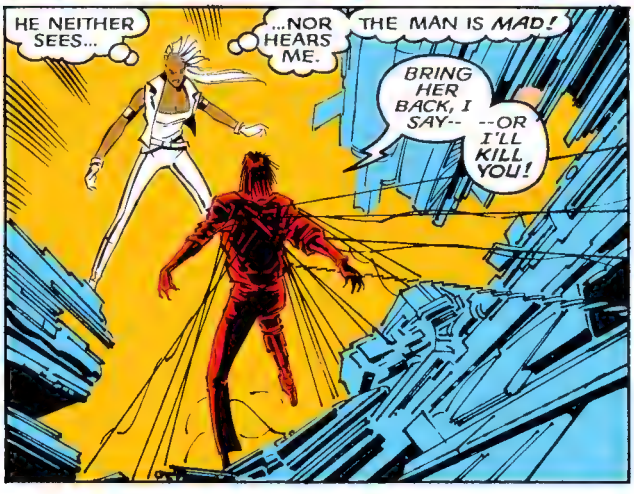

SINCE THE DEFENSES ARE CONTROLLED FROM FORGE'S LAB, THAT IS WHERE I MUST GO.
MORE ILLUSIONS.
BUT SO MANY--OVERLAPPING, BLURRING, BREAKING UP--
--LIKE A TAPE REPLAYED SO OFTEN IT IS WEARING OUT.
FORGE?
PHAUGH!
WHAT A STENCH!
COULD HE HAVE...
...DIED HERE?
MORE OF THE SAME--
-- BUT FAR WORSE THAN BEFORE.
REALITY MIXED WITH EVERY FANTASY IMAGINABLE...
...FORGE HAS MADE THIS ROOM--HIS ENTIRE HOME--
--INTO SOME OBSCENE SHRINE!
I DO NOT KNOW...
... WHETHER TO BE DISGUSTED...
...OR SAD.
THIS IS THE SWITCH I WANT.
THERE.
KLIK!
THE SHOW IS OVER.
NO!
MERCIFUL LADY!


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
FORGE???
BETTER YOU HAD BEEN DEAD, O MAN...
... THAN TO BE FOUND LIKE THIS.
WHERE IS MY LOVE, WHERE IS MY HEART?!
YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO TAKE HER AWAY--

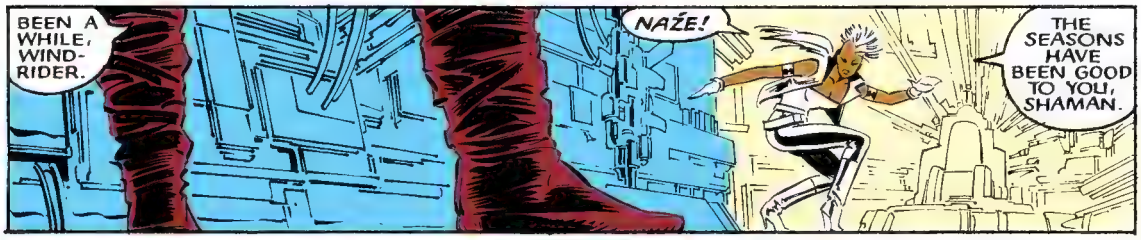
--BRING HER BACK!!

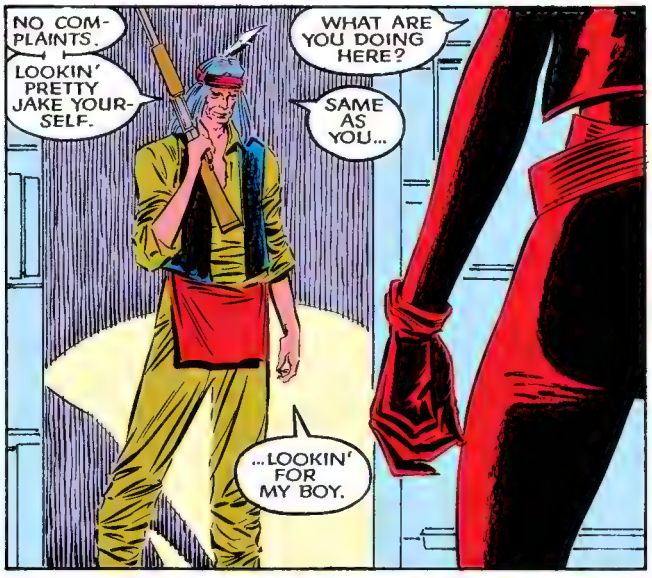
OPEN YOUR EYES, FORGE.
THE REAL WOMAN STANDS BEFORE YOU!


PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE
I BEG YOU
IS IT SO MUCH TO ASK
A LITTLE DREAM A LITTLE JOY
SHE IS MY WORLD MY LIFE
I NEED HER SO
OROROO!


HE NEITHER SEES...
...NOR HEARS ME.
THE MAN IS MAD!
BRING HER BACK, I SAY--
--OR I'LL KILL YOU!

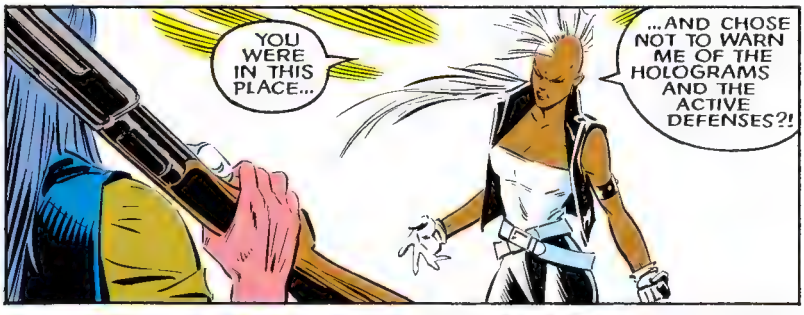
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, MAKER, OR--
--MY HAND?!!?
HE IS AN ILLUSION, TOO!


BEEN A WHILE, WIND-RIDER.
NAŽE!
THE SEASONS HAVE BEEN GOOD TO YOU, SHAMAN.


NO COM-PLAINTS.
LOOKIN' PRETTY JAKE YOUR-SELF.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SAME AS YOU...
...LOOKIN' FOR MY BOY.

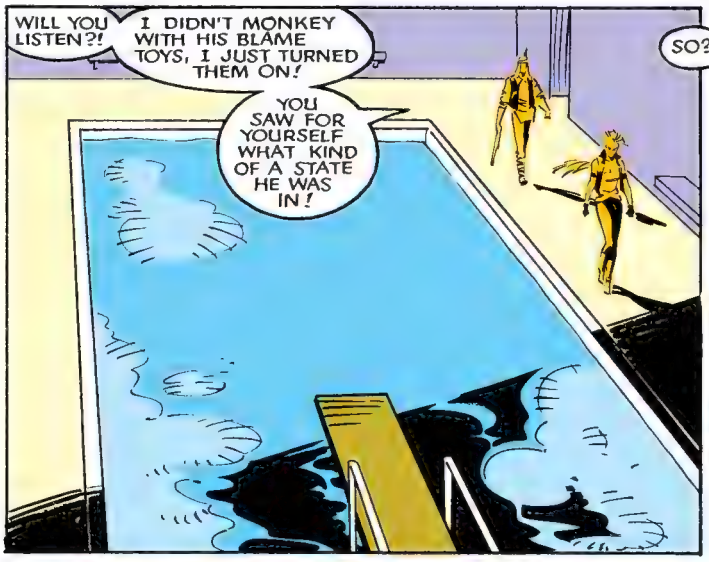
AT PRECISELY THE SAME TIME-- HOW COINCI-DENTAL.
ACTUALLY, I BEEN AROUND A COUPLE OF WEEKS...
...TRYIN' TO FIGURE WHERE FORGE SKIPPED TO AN' WHY AN' WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.
HAD THE WHOLE DEAL PRETTY MUCH SCOPED WHEN YOU SHOWED.

GLAD YOU CAME, STORM. SAVED ME THE TROUBLE OF CALLIN'.


YOU WERE IN THIS PLACE...
...AND CHOSE NOT TO WARN ME OF THE HOLOGRAMS AND THE ACTIVE DEFENSES?!

HARDLY. I SET 'EM ON YOU.
WANTED TO SEE IF YOU STILL HAD YOUR EDGE.
REAL IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE, CHILD, BETTER'N I EXPECTED.
THE DEVIL TAKE YOU, OLD MAN.

CAN'T TAKE...
...WHAT'S ALREADY OWNED.
REIN UP, WOMAN!
GO TO HADES!

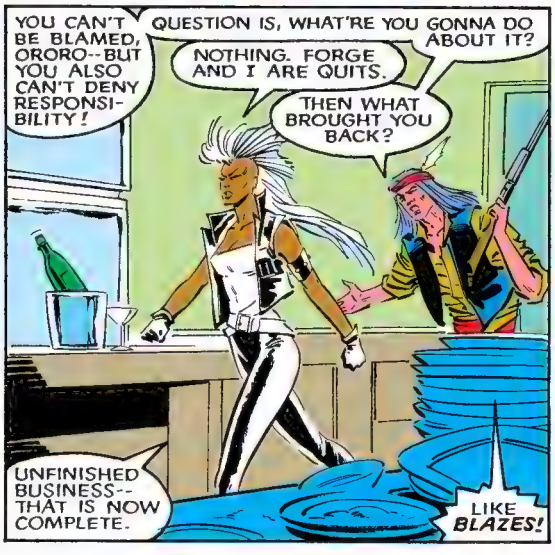

WILL YOU LISTEN?!
I DIDN'T MONKEY WITH HIS BLAME TOYS, I JUST TURNED THEM ON!
YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF WHAT KIND OF A STATE HE WAS IN!

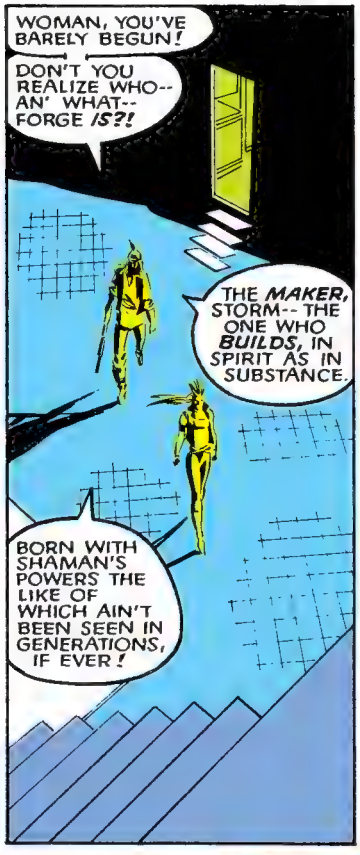
SO?
HIS INSANITY IS NO CONCERN OF MINE.

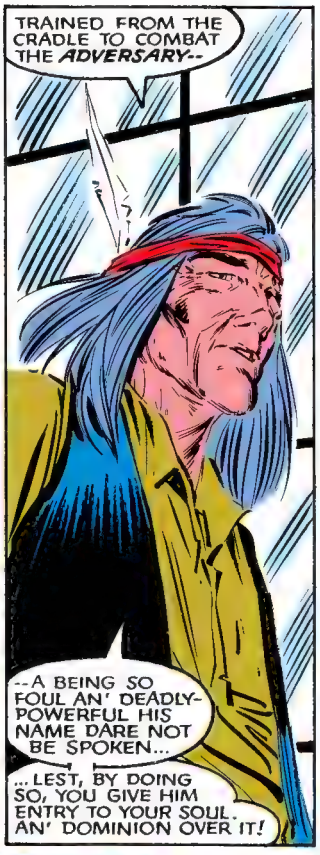
STUPID COW-- ARE YOU TRULY SUCH A FOOL?!
IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
ORORO, YOU'RE THE CAUSE!

FORGE LOVED YOU, AS HE LOVED NOTHING AND NO ONE IN HIS LIFE!
HE BELIEVED HE'D DESTROYED YOU--
--BY CREATING THE WEAPON THAT BANISHED YOUR MUTANT POWERS--

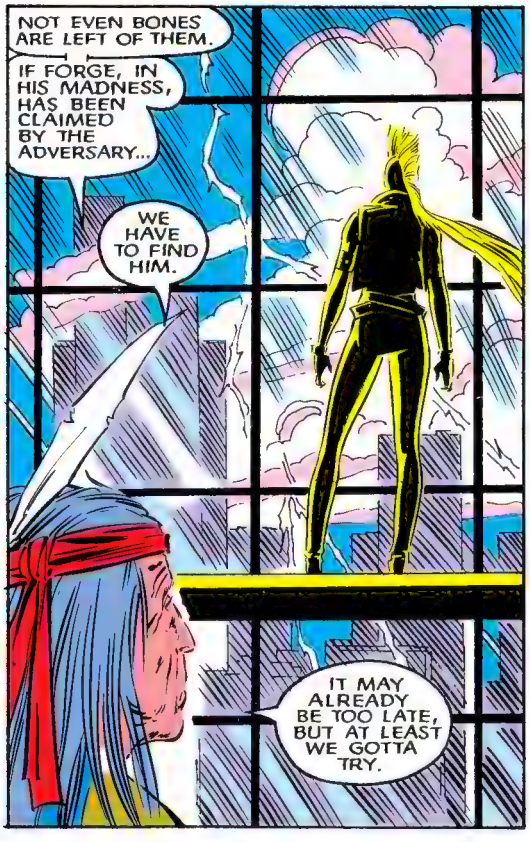
--AND THAT DESTROYED HIM!
IT TORE OUT HIS HEART, CHILD, RAVAGED HIS SOUL.
NO LESS, NAZE, THAN HIS BETRAYAL DID MINE!
HE COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF-- BUT, INSTEAD, HE LIED! I TRUSTED HIM ONCE--NEVER AGAIN!


YOU CAN'T BE BLAMED, ORORO--BUT YOU ALSO CAN'T DENY RESPONSIBILITY!
QUESTION IS, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
NOTHING. FORGE AND I ARE QUITS.
THEN WHAT BROUGHT YOU BACK?
UNFINISHED BUSINESS-- THAT IS NOW COMPLETE.
LIKE BLAZES!


WOMAN, YOU'VE BARELY BEGUN!
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHO-- AN' WHAT-- FORGE IS?!
THE MAKER, STORM-- THE ONE WHO BUILDS, IN SPIRIT AS IN SUBSTANCE.
BORN WITH SHAMAN'S POWERS THE LIKE OF WHICH AIN'T BEEN SEEN IN GENERATIONS, IF EVER!


TRAINED FROM THE CRADLE TO COMBAT THE ADVERSARY--
--A BEING SO FOUL AN' DEADLY-POWERFUL HIS NAME DARE NOT BE SPOKEN...
...LEST, BY DOING SO, YOU GIVE HIM ENTRY TO YOUR SOUL. AN' DOMINION OVER IT!

ONLY-- THE BOY REBELLED AGAINST HERITAGE AND TEACHINGS--
--HE CHOSE TO PLAY THE WARRIOR IN A WHITE MAN'S WAR.
HE LOST MORE THAN HIS LEG AND HAND IN VIETNAM, ORORO. HE LOST HIS CHEYENNE SOUL!
OTHERS TRIED TO TAKE HIS PLACE.


NOT EVEN BONES ARE LEFT OF THEM.
IF FORGE, IN HIS MADNESS, HAS BEEN CLAIMED BY THE ADVERSARY...
WE HAVE TO FIND HIM.
IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE, BUT AT LEAST WE GOTTA TRY.

I CANNOT, NAZE.
I HAVE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES-- FRIENDS IN DESPERATE NEED...

I SAVED YOUR LIFE, WIND-RIDER, REMEMBER?! *
NOW, I'M CALLIN' IN THAT DEBT!
*X-MEN #187-- A.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Blast! That holographic image projector cost a fortune! Hope it's still deductable under the new tax laws!"

—Iron Man, IRON MAN #221

ITEM: After a few days shy of a decade (!) mellow *Mary Jo Duffy* has decided to turn in her editorial blue pencil and join the ranks of **Marvel's** frantic freelancers. Mary Jo, who's been the managing editor on our **Epic** line for the past three years, began her editorial stint up here at Marvel 'way back in January 1977. Before there even was an *Epic* line to hitch up with, she served as an assistant editor to then-staff editors *Bob Hall* and *Al Milgrom*. Soon after the late lamented *Epic Magazine* began, she became *Archie Goodwin's* associate editor, becoming an editor when the Epic comics line was launched in 1982. Now that she's left the 9 to 5 grind, you can see her scripting talents on display in the ongoing FALLEN ANGELS Limited Series, as well as the forthcoming PUNISHER graphic novel. (Gee, with Mary Jo gone, the only people who've been on staff longer than she are the redoubtable *Ralph Macchio* and jaunty *Jim Shooter*!)

ITEM: Congratulations to both wily *Walt Simonson* and busy *Bill Sienkiewicz* for winning a pair of prestigious foreign awards for their comics work. "Uncle" Walt went to Oviedo, Spain to pick up the Haxtur Award given by El III Salón del Comic Ciudad de Oviedo for his writing on THOR. Bill traveled to Lucca, Italy to receive the Yellow Kid Award and the Grand Guinigi for his artistry on the ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN Epic book. Take your bows, guys—both of you are helping to advance the prestige of comic books the world over!

ITEM: Congratulations are also due vivacious *Virginia* and jazzy *Johnny Romita* on the birth of their very first grandchild. Born on December 31, 1986, captivating *Krista Romita* ushered in the New Year (not to mention a new generation of Romitas) at four pounds and seven ounces. Rumor has it that *Victor* and *Nancy Romita*, *Krista's* proud parents, have already started making plans to send her to art school. She can't start penciling too soon if she's going to follow in the grand artistic steps of granddaddy *John Senior* and uncle *John Junior*! (*Virginia* claims *Krista* was born ahead of schedule, but what would you expect our tantalizing Traffic Manager to say? After all, it's her job to keep our ever-illustrious, but never industrious, editorial staff on schedule so that our consummate comics come out on time every month like they should!)

ITEM: As most of you already know, Spider-Man is getting married this summer! Yes, that's right, the ol' web-swinger is finally going to tie the knot. To help celebrate this momentous occasion, we're going to throw a very special bachelor party for everyone's favorite wall-crawler at *The Wonderful World of Comics* Convention which will be held on May 2nd and 3rd, at the Oakland Hyatt Hotel in Oakland, California. The featured guests will include *Smiling Stan Lee*, *Jaunty Jim Shooter*, *Sensational Steve Englehart*, and a host of other **Marvel** madmen. For more information on this convention, you can write to:

Bob Borden
c/o Fact, Fiction & Fantasy
2247 First Street
Livermore, CA 94450

Or, you can call Bob at 415-449-5233. Just tell him that **Marvel** sent you!

Pro File on: JIM SHOOTER

Editor in Chief of: *The entire Marvel, Epic, and Star lines of comic books*

Marvel freelance credits (past): *STAR BRAND, SECRET WARS I and II, THE AVENGERS, DAREDEVIL, GHOST RIDER, DAZZLER, and almost every other Marvel character at one time or another.*

Marvel freelance credits (present): *By popular demand, I'm not writing anything at the moment.*

My place of birth is: *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

My hobbies are: *I like to run, lift weights and ride motorcycles. According to Playgirl Magazine, I'm one of the Fifty Most Eligible Bachelors In America, and I'm continually trying to prove it!*

My pet peeves are: *Narrowmindedness and shortsightedness.*

The single work which I am most proud of is: *The improved financial benefits and creators rights which I've managed to get for the people who work at Marvel.*

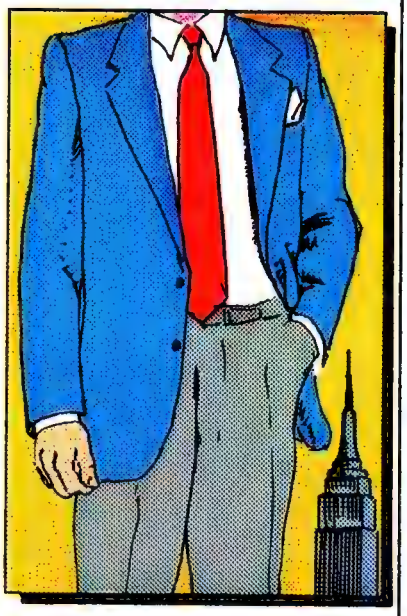
My oddest habit is: *I can't do any creative work at a desk or a table. I do most of my writing on a lap board with my feet propped up while I'm seated on the left end of a couch.*

The biggest influences on my work include: *Stan Lee, Mort Weisinger and Mark Twain.*

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: *To write a story that I am happy with.*

The worst part of my job is: *That I can't do it as well as I want.*

When nobody's looking I like to: *Practice juggling.*



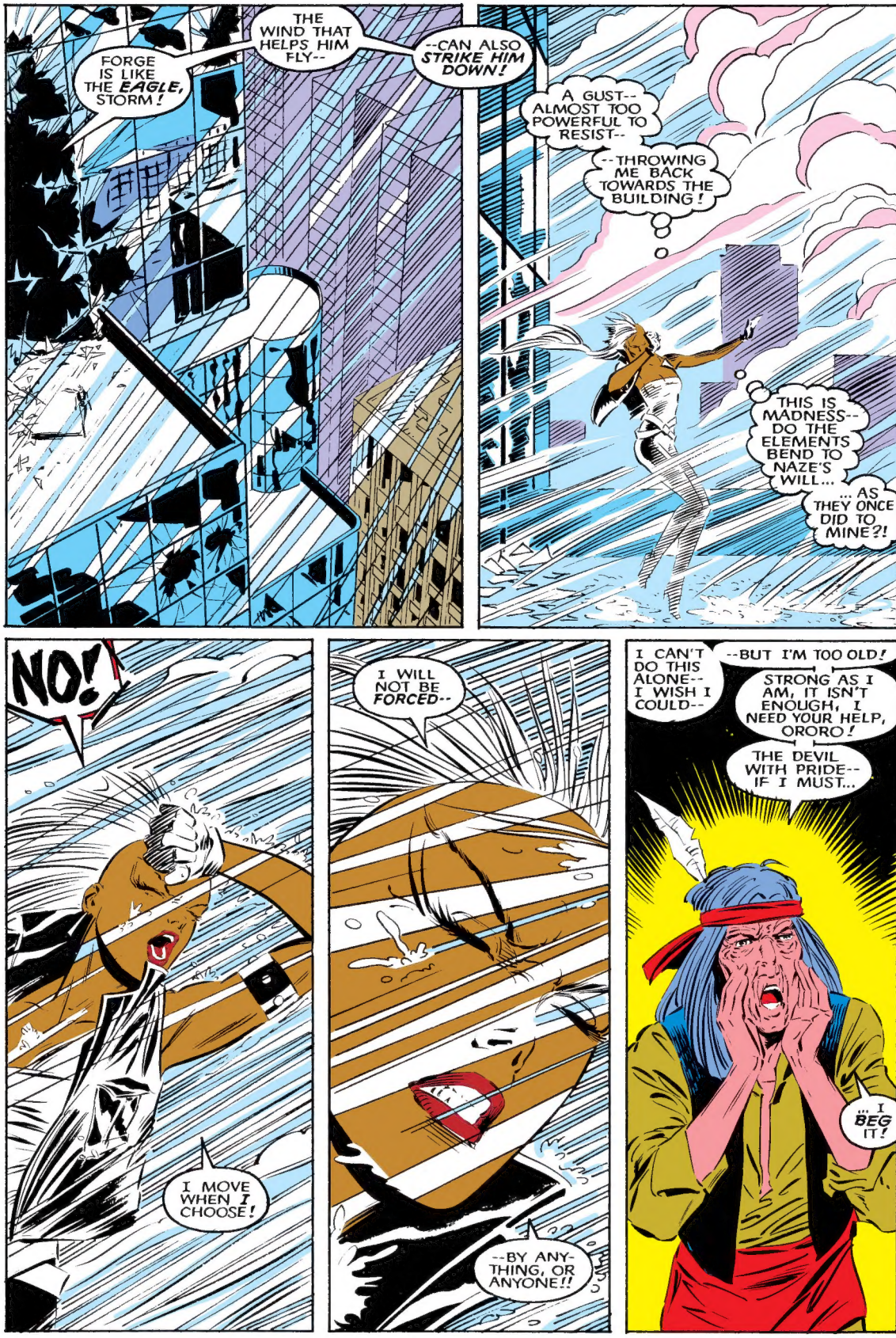
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: *I don't really care what the world knows about me, or what the world thinks of me, as long as I do what's right.*

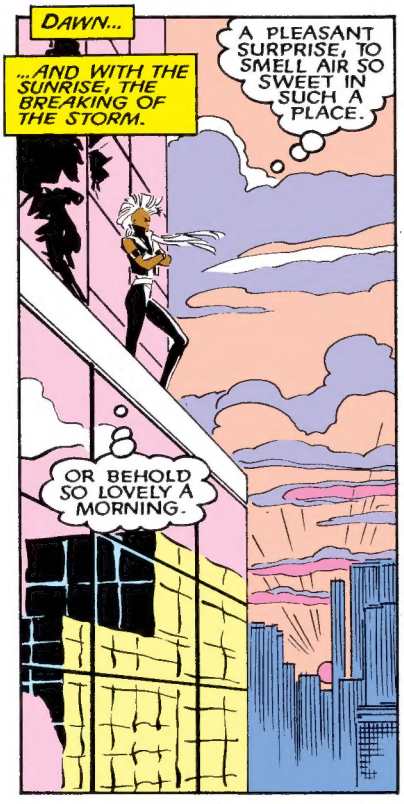
CHECKLIST

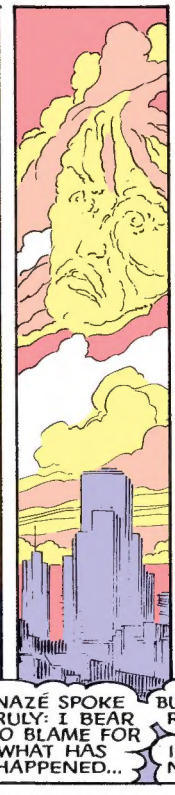
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #245**—Guest-starring the Black Panther!
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #54**
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #9**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #29**—With Wolverine!
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #23**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #6**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #49**—Versus their most deadly adversary, Omega!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #332**—Steve Rogers resigns as Cap!
- ☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #5**
- ☐ **STRANGE TALES II #5**—With two great features! Cloak & Dagger battle Rodent, and Dr. Strange meets the New Defenders!
- ☐ **POWER PACK #31**—Alex sets out to destroy a Crack house!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #282**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #334**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #202**
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #2**—Return to Zenn La, the Surfer's home planet!
- ☐ **X-MEN #220**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #197**—With Red Sonja!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #62**
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #21**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #305**—Ms. Marvel joins the FF!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #221**
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #9**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #129**
- ☐ **PUNISHER #2**—Out to destroy the South American Crack connection!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #19**—This guy's name says it all: Apocalypse!
- ☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #12**
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #31**
- ☐ **THOR #382**—A special *double-sized* issue, in which everything happens! And we do mean everything!!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #17**—Beginning . . . the Handbook of the Dead.
- ☐ **AVENGERS INDEX #2**—Featuring all the villains, the guest stars, the excitement and the creators of issues #24–47!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #5**

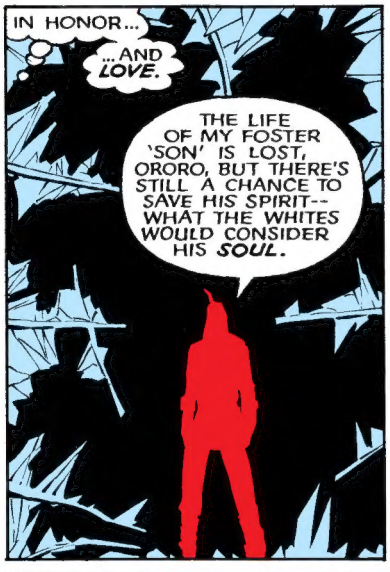
MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #53**
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #138**
- ☐ **CONAN SAGA #3**
- ☐ **HOUSE II**—A Marvel adaptation of the hit horror movie! Scripted by RALPH MACCHIO. Art by ALAN KUPPERBERG and Co.!


FORGE IS LIKE THE EAGLE, STORM!
THE WIND THAT HELPS HIM FLY--
--CAN ALSO STRIKE HIM DOWN!
A GUST-- ALMOST TOO POWERFUL TO RESIST--
--THROWING ME BACK TOWARDS THE BUILDING!
THIS IS MADNESS-- DO THE ELEMENTS BEND TO NAZE'S WILL...
... AS THEY ONCE DID TO MINE?!
NO!
I MOVE WHEN I CHOOSE!
I WILL NOT BE FORCED--
--BY ANYTHING, OR ANYONE!!
I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE-- I WISH I COULD--
--BUT I'M TOO OLD!
STRONG AS I AM, IT ISN'T ENOUGH, I NEED YOUR HELP, ORORO!
THE DEVIL WITH PRIDE-- IF I MUST...
... I BEG IT!







NEXT: The MARAUDERS RETURN, AND TWO X-MEN FACE-- DEATH BY DROWNING!

X-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear X-People,

How do you do it? X-MEN #213 may be the best X-MEN issue I have ever read! The action in the battle between Wolverine and Sabretooth was really exciting! Alan Davis pulled off a realistic rendition of the X-Men. Chris Claremont's writing is hard and quite real without sacrificing sensitivity. I hope he doesn't lose whatever formula or stroke of luck he got to make this issue so incredible.

I really like Psylocke—she's a great new member! Her fight with Sabretooth was almost better than Wolvie's round with him. I feel that the character has a good future with a lot of stories that can involve her. With Psylocke, Dazzler, and now Longshot joining the team, it sure is going to be interesting. If the injured characters get well, the new members stay, and Havok does join, it would be the strongest X-Men we could dream of!

If you keep up this kind of work, you'll keep one reader happy for a long time! Thanks.

Craig Bradford
37 Centennial Avenue
Aylmer, Ontario, CA N5H 2X3

Dear X-Folks,

My friends introduced me to THE X-MEN about two years ago. Since then, I've gone to our local comics shop and managed to get back issues from #129 up. One of the major reasons I got hooked on THE X-MEN was Kitty Pryde. She is like a friend to me, she makes me laugh and entertains me.

After reading X-MEN #211–213, I can't believe the games you're playing with her! Kitty deserves a lot better than being stuck in permanent phase. She is one of the greatest, most three-dimensional characters to ever come out of Marvel! I hope that by the time this is in print, you've straightened this out. I don't mean to come down on you but when Kitty is threatened, my protective instincts just react. You guys produce a great comic book, just keep Kitty a part of it.

David White
1803 E. Briarvale Ave
Anaheim, CA 92805

Sorry, David, it's not looking good for Kitty yet, her molecules are still drifting further and further apart. But, if you've been reading the X-MEN VS. FANTASTIC FOUR Limited Series by Chris Claremont and POWER PACK's Jon Bogdanove, at least you know that now she has a chance. That is, if you think having to rely on *Doctor Doom's* Molecular Re-Integrator is any kind of chance at all!

Dear Sirs,

This is a letter, my first to Marvel actually, regarding X-MEN #213. I've followed the "Mutant Massacre" up to this point, and according to my official Marvel map, it's drawing to a close with this issue. What a climax! And in THE X-MEN, no less!

Sabretooth is an exciting character. I've liked him ever since his first appearance in IRON FIST #14, I believe. He's the perfect match for Wolverine and Alan Davis gave us all the brutality and anger of their battle that I could expect or hope for! The fight scene on page 19 reminded me of those by Frank Miller in the WOLVERINE Limited Series. My leg still aches from the slash of Wolvie's claws on page 17! I kind of hoped it was a battle to the death, but then it probably would have been Sabretooth. Now he can return again, presumably.

Psylocke made a smashing debut as a full-fledged member. The splash page was terrific. One question about the mind-tap on Sabretooth during the battle. Wolverine was mentioned and the comment, "They have fought before" was made. Is this part of his shaded past and origin?

Again, back to Alan Davis. I've admired his works on the CAPTAIN BRITAIN U.K. publication and some other books. Paul Neary's inks really enhanced the pencils, especially on the cover. This scene portrayed the most aggression I've seen in a long time! Alan Davis is good!

I eagerly await the return of Sabretooth!

Rob Cleveland
6648 Columbus
Middleton, WI 53562

Dear X-People and Other Mutant-Lovers,

I've just finished reading the X-MEN ANNUAL #10 and I have only one thing to say about it—it can't get any better than this! The art was superb (Art Adams always is), the story was great, and all together it was one of the funniest comics I've ever read. Putting Longshot in the X-Men is a truly wonderful idea. Thank you very much for this masterpiece.

Okay, enough about that. Now, I'd like to talk about my favorite female in comics—Rogue. Please do more with Rogue. More stories about her, more pictures of her, anything. Just please have more Rogue, her presence lights up the pages of THE X-MEN.

Well, that about wraps it up. Until Galactus joins Power Pack, Make Mine Marvel!

Jason Quinn
742 S. Vine
Denver, CO

Dear X-Creators,

Wow, I loved X-MEN ANNUAL #10! It was worth the price just to see Wolverine say, "Golly Gumbucks". This was truly a classic!

One problem, though—where does it fit in? Since the X-Men were all healthy and Psylocke was around, this would either put it in the near future (but that's unlikely since Dazzler wasn't around), or between X-MEN #210 and #211, where the NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL must have also occurred. Fine. But where did Longshot go off to during the massacre? Simple. Looking for Mojo and Spiral, his worst enemies. When he can't find them here on Earth, he'll return to the X-Men. Good enough for a No-Prize?

Keep up the terrific work, and until Kitty has another accident, Make Mine Marvel! (Phew! Open a window!)

Nathan Strum
526 N. 198th
Seattle, WA 98133

Well, that's not exactly the way it went, Nathan, but in the spirit of Holiday cheer, we'll be generous. Consider yourself the proud owner of a brand-spanking-new No-Prize! Non-refundable, of course.

You were right about where the Annual occurred chronologically, but you were off the mark with your guess about where Longshot was during the massacre. The real story is best left for another day—believe us, it's not what anyone could have guessed!

Dear X-TEAM,

After seeing X-MEN #213 and X-MEN ANNUAL #10, I feel the perfect artists are in reach for this book!

I've been a big fan of Alan Davis's for quite a while now. His lines are clear and clean and his characters have a certain whimsy—which is certainly not to say that his Wolverine is any less fierce! And Storm, Rogue, and Psylocke maintain every inch of their femininity, while still appearing as formidable heroines. Alan's work on NEW MUTANTS has been outstanding as well.

Arthur Adams's work nearly defies description! Each issue that he draws is an event. His art stretches the imagination and gives THE X-MEN that truly "uncanny", larger-than-life quality the team deserves.

In light of the re-vamping of the team, the time has come for a fresh look for the book. Two excellent artists have now proven their capability of handling the title. Bring either Alan or Art aboard—you can't go wrong!

Jeff Howells
5835 Alderson St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Once John Romita, Jr. decided to move over to the New Universe, we would have loved to see either of these two other talented pencilers take over THE X-MEN, but it was all we could do to get them for these special issues, Jeff. Art Adams has returned to his work on the LONGSHOT Graphic Novel. Written by X-MEN editor, Ann Nocenti, the entire 80 page story, picking up where the LONGSHOT Limited Series left off—chronicles the rebellion of his universe, the fate of Mojo and Spiral and it's all painted by Art in full color. Alan Davis, who returned for X-MEN #215, has promised to be available for our X-MEN and NEW MUTANT Annuals.

In the meantime, we've managed to settle on a new, permanent artist for this book, Marc Silvestri—and it certainly looks like he was worth the wait! (After the reactions we got to his dynamic pencils on the X-MEN VS. AVENGERS Limited Series, we can't wait to hear what X-MEN fans have to say about Marc!)

Digitized by
Syl3nt Bob
and
He's a gonna be OKAY!
I think...